

B-Cal deal alarms Tory MPs as Government is attacked

Turmoil over BA proposal to buy airline

By Robin Oakley and Rodney Cowton

The Government was under attack yesterday over the proposed £273 million takeover of British Caledonian by British Airways which has left the aviation world in turmoil.

The announcement that the airlines had agreed terms led to calls for reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and fierce criticism from other independent airline operators.

But the planned takeover was warmly welcomed by trade unions representing workers in the two airlines, who said the growth of the "mega-carrier" airlines in the United States had made a merger "all but inevitable".

As Labour pressed for the deal to be referred to the Monopolies Commission, Tory MPs were openly alarmed about the implications for the Government's competition policy.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will now have to wait some weeks for a recommendation by Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, on whether he should refer the merger to the Monopolies Commission. It is then a personal decision for him.

A last-minute rush to apply for shares in BAA has assured a heavy oversubscription for the £1.225 billion sale. City streets were jammed as buyers submitted their applications in forms, and in unofficial dealings the shares were traded at a premium of 45p on the official 245p offer.

about the possibility of the British Airways bid for about a week.

The one area of the Government's successful privatization policy which has worried its own supporters is the lack of competition in the privatized industries like British Telecom and British Gas. Now it seems that within months of the privatization of British Airways the former state airline is set to swallow up its only major competitor, to the alarm of the remaining airline operators in Britain, who would be left with only about 10 per cent of airline licences.

Tory MPs were already voicing their disquiet in the Commons yesterday. Mr Anthony Seldon (South Hants) said that it would mean the death knell of independent airlines in Britain.

But both Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley), whose constituency includes Gatwick Airport, and Mr Terry Dicks (Hayes and Harlington), whose constituency includes much of Heathrow, backed the merger.

Lord King said that he did not think there would be many problems over redundancies.

The merger marks the end of the attempt by Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian, to establish B-Cal as an independent international operator.

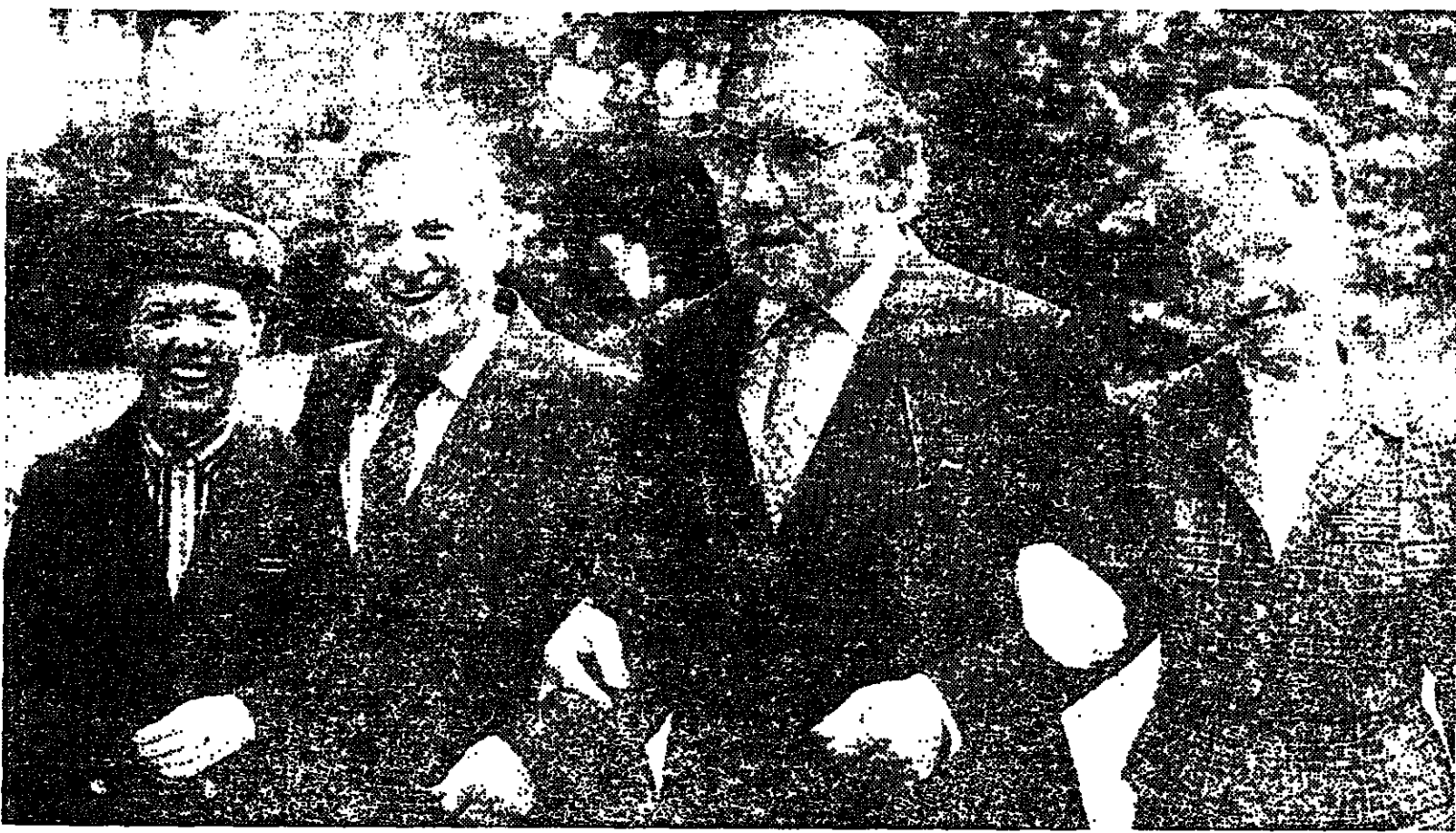
Lord King said it was intended to maintain the identity and livery of B-Cal, and they would honour B-Cal's contracts worth nearly £1 billion to buy 10 A320 aircraft and nine MD11 aircraft.

Sir Adam was disappointed, but said: "We recognize that we are too small to survive in the international arena."

Lord King said that if the merger went through Sir Adam would continue as chairman of B-Cal, which would become a division of BA. Sir Adam would not, however, be joining the main board of BA, and he said he was satisfied with that arrangement.

The Civil Aviation Authority said it believed the proposed merger raised some important issues of airline competition and airport policies.

International Leisure Group, which operates Air Europe, and claims to be Britain's fastest growing airline, said the merger would be "totally contrary to Government policy and leaves the consumer with no choice at all".



Sir Adam Thomson and Lord King with stewardesses Jenny Owen, left, of British Airways, and Christine Troth of British Caledonian in London.

BA merger planned last year

By John Bell City Editor

Plans for a merger of British Airways and British Caledonian, its leading domestic rival, were hatched in secret last year even before the world's favourite airline was privatized in February.

As chairman and chief executive of a nationalized industry, Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall found their hands tied until BA made its entry into the world of private enterprise.

Last autumn, while planning the details of the flotation prospectus and the corporate strategy as a private sector company, the two men reached the same conclusion: the logical first move to expand the business would be to strike a deal with Sir Adam Thomson, the independent-minded boss of B-Cal.

But the idea was beset with problems however much it made industrial and financial logic for BA. Lord King decided to test the water delicately. Sir Colin delivered a speech in early spring to the Anglo-American Chamber of Commerce, containing a carefully coded message to Sir Adam and those in Whitehall responsible for regulating Britain's airlines.

Sir Colin outlined his view of a future where there would be a polarization of the industry between global "mega-carriers" and local feeder airlines occupying small but nevertheless profitable niches in the business. Those in-between, hinted Sir Colin, would find life increasingly tough as the industry dropped its restrictive practices and embraced de-regulation.

Senior managers in B-Cal, itself a small to medium-sized business, recognized the significance of the message.

Continued on page 2, col 3

Lawson plea for more spending on job training

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Companies should channel their greatly increased profits into better training, not higher pay, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said last night.

Such a move would in the long run bring greater benefits to workers, the companies concerned and job-seekers. Industry was strong enough to meet the challenge posed by the superior training schemes of its international competitors, the Chancellor said.

He said also that figures for manufacturing employment were being artificially depressed by the growing trend for big companies to contract out activities such as transport and distribution to specialist firms.

"For the official statistics this has the effect of apparently reducing employment in manufacturing, while increasing that in services, even though the nature of the work being done remains much the same."

Mr Lawson's comments come after a fall of 27,000 in the seasonally adjusted adult jobless total and a small rise of 2,000 in manufacturing employment in June. However manufacturing employment fell by 99,000 to 5,066,000 million in the year to May.

He told Conservative Party members in Bury, Lancashire, that success in the fight against unemployment depended on the maintenance of present policies, flourishing industry and a positive attitude by leaders of local communities towards economic change.

"Above all, it is of the first importance that those areas hardest hit by the decline of older industries continue to believe in themselves, and to take a positive attitude to change," he said.

The Chancellor said that Britain had the fastest rate of economic growth of all the major economies in the world. The high unemployment was

the result of massive over-manning in the 1970s, the decline of traditional industries and the emergence of a leaner, fitter manufacturing sector.

The growth of the service sector, which saw one million new jobs since 1979, the increase in the number of small firms and the rise in part-time working had only partly compensated for past reversals, such as the two million jobs lost between 1979 and 1983, including 1.75 million in manufacturing.

Mr Lawson said that greatly increased profitability meant that most companies could meet the challenge of rivaling their international competitors in job training.

He said that wage rates should be linked to what companies could afford.

Police jailed for attacking boys

By Michael McCarthy and Stewart Tendler

Five police officers who attacked a group of schoolboys in Holloway, north London, four years ago, or who helped subsequently to cover up the attack, were jailed yesterday at the Central Criminal Court.

In uncompromising stern language Mr Justice Kenneth Jones, passing sentence, made it clear that policemen who turned hooligan could expect little mercy from the courts when he sentenced three of the officers to four years, one for 18 months and the sergeant was given three years.

He brusquely rejected pleas of mitigation from defence counsel that all the officers had been under stress at the moment of the attack after being on duty for an inordinately long time.

He told the four PCs and their sergeant, who had formed part of the crew of a mobile patrol van: "This was a disgraceful offence. You behaved like vicious hooligans and lied like common criminals." It had been "a brutal, bullying, unprovoked attack upon innocent schoolboys," he said.

And he added: "I propose to make an example of you all - and the public may know that when police officers are attacked the courts will immediately come to their help and impose condign punishments on those who attack them - but here the boot is on the other foot and the public should know also that when police officers behave as you

do the court will equally come to the protection of the public."

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Winship, head of Scotland Yard's complaints investigation bureau, said after the sentencing yesterday that the fired policemen "had disgraced the proud reputation of the Metropolitan Police".

Mr Winship said the "unprovoked and disgraceful conduct displayed" during the incident had marked a most

serious departure from the normal standards of the London police. There was also a prolonged conspiracy to conceal the truth which was a matter of even greater concern.

Mr Winship said lessons had been learned. He said 570 police vehicles had been individually marked to aid identification; excessive hours of duty had been reduced wherever possible; there had been a restructuring of the use of police units, and a general review of policing policy involving codes of conduct or ethics.

Mr Winship said the police officers who had been given immunity to give evidence would not face criminal proceedings and they would also be exempt from disciplinary action.

Details.....5
Photograph.....5

Admiral's farewell to Reagan

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Admiral John Poindexter, the man who has admitted keeping the details of the Iran-Contra deal from President Reagan, told the congressional investigating committee here yesterday how he tendered his resignation to the President.

After telling the committee that he had tried very hard to keep within the law by keeping the other departments out of the operation, he was asked to describe the scene in the Oval Office when he resigned.

He said: "It was a very short conversation. I sat down, and my best recollection of the conversation was that I said, 'Mr President, I assume that you are aware of the paper that Ed Meese (the Attorney General) has found, that reveals a plan to transfer funds to the Contras.'"

"I was generally aware of that plan, and I would like to submit my resignation, to give you the necessary latitude to do whatever you need to do."

"And the President responded and said that this was in the tradition of a naval officer of accepting responsibility."

"And I shook hands with everybody and left the office. That was the last time I saw the President."

Reports, page 7
Barbara Amiel, page 19

FOCUS

The Queen Mother joined nurses yesterday to celebrate the centenary of their national pension fund. A Special Report traces the history of the scheme. Pages 30-33

Exam results

Degree passes from the University College of North Wales, Bangor, are published today. Page 28

Portfolio

● There is £8,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner yesterday. ● Portfolio list, page 27.

INDEX

Home News	2-3, 5, 6
Overseas	7-9, 11
Business	23-28
Sport	36-40
Arts	18
Births, deaths, marriages	17
Church	17
City Diary	25
Court	16
Crosswords	12, 22
Diary	14
Entertainments	12, 14, 19
Features	28
Information	28
Law Report	15
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Motoring	34, 35
Obituary	16
Parliament	4
Sale room	16
Science	16
TV & Radio	21
University results	28
Weather	22
Wills	17

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Prison overcrowding

Hurd makes remission cuts

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Remission of some prison sentences is to be increased from a third to a half as part of emergency measures. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

The package, intended to cut the population of Britain's overcrowded prisons, includes the opening of a temporary camp in Wiltshire and a wide-ranging review of parole and remission arrangements.

It was disclosed as industrial unrest threatened to spread in prisons in London and comes against a background of a record prison population of 51,029.

The aim of the measures, designed to cut the prison population by about 3,500, is

to remove from police cells people held there through lack of prison space and to relieve pressure on the jail system, particularly on local prisons.

Rollstone Camp in Wiltshire is to be opened temporarily to hold 360 inmates. Private enterprise skills are

also to be harnessed to speed the prison building programme. Parole and remission arrangements are to be the subject of a wide-ranging and fundamental review.

Mr Hurd announced the emergency measures in a Commons statement. At the same time Sir James

Hennessy, Chief Inspector of Prisons, reported on the jail riots last year, which had included the worst night of violence the English prison system had ever known.

Mr Hurd said he proposed to lay amendments to the rules for prison establishments, "increasing the amount of remission dependent upon good behaviour of those serving sentences of up to and including 12 months from one third to one half of sentence length."

It was an interim measure, he said. "It will remove the anomaly, criticized by the courts, that those on sentences too short to qualify for parole

disappointed that the newspaper had been "injunctioned" but he was encouraged that the judge had granted only a temporary injunction; and by the judge's suggestion that all injunctions should be reconsidered next Monday.

The newspaper had three more extracts which it was waiting to publish which were "all good stuff", he said.

He added that the judge "strongly implied that the law in this area is a real mess and has got to be sorted out."

The newspaper is fighting a separate legal battle in Scotland where the

Sunday Times agrees to ban on spy memoirs

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Sunday Times yesterday agreed to be bound by a High Court injunction obtained by the Attorney General banning it from publishing any further extracts from *Spycatcher*, the memoirs of the former MI5 officer, Mr Peter Wright.

But granting the temporary injunction, which expires next Tuesday at 10.30 am, the judge, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, said that all the bans now in force against newspapers should be reconsidered together next week.

They should be looked at again, he

Thatcher forgoes large salary rise

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister and her ministerial colleagues tried to set an example to the country over low pay last night by forgoing large increases.

But in spite of restricting themselves to an across-the-board ministerial increase of £1,012, their total salaries will still rise by between 7 and 19 per cent - with Scotland's

Solicitor General gaining an extra 45 per cent.

MPs are expected to vote in favour of increasing their parliamentary salaries next Tuesday from £18,500 to £22,548 a year - a 21.9 per cent rise.

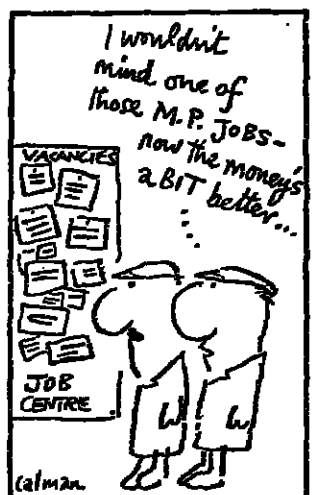
Ministers receive a two-thirds portion of this parliamentary salary, plus a separate ministerial sum.

Although their ministerial pay is being pegged, their parliamentary salary - currently £13,875 - will go up by 21.9 per cent to £16,911.

They will gain a total increase in the end of £4,048 - exactly the same rise in cash terms as will go to all MPs.

Mrs Thatcher, who is entitled as Prime Minister to be paid £62,698, has chosen to be paid the same as her Cabinet colleagues in the Commons - £51,068.

That means she will be earning only slightly more than Mr Neil Kinnock, whose salary will rise to £48,148 a year.



(alman)

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Girl, two, found dying in bushes

Police are hunting the killer of a girl aged two found dying from head injuries among bushes yards from her home. Julie King was discovered on Wednesday evening by a group of teenagers playing in a quiet suburb of Aberdeen. They had heard her crying. She died on the way to hospital.

The girl, who had been playing with her cycle, had wandered from her home in Leslie Crescent, Westhill, just outside the city centre. Her father was working in his garage and when an ice-cream van called he could not find her.

She was an only child, but her mother is expecting a second baby soon. Both parents were under sedation at their home yesterday.

Tourism cash up

Capital investment in big tourism and leisure schemes in England rose by more than 25 per cent during the first half of this year, according to the latest figures published by the English Tourist Board today.

The survey shows that new investments totalled £1.235 billion, compared with £961 million during the last six months of 1986. Mr Duncan Black, chairman of the board, says that the "very substantial increase" shows that the industry is attracting record investments.

Jail for drowning

A man who drowned his baby daughter after trying to strangle his wife was sentenced to eight years' jail yesterday.

Graham Yeomans, aged 28, of Elcombe Road, Torquay, Devon, drowned his daughter, Katie, aged 18 months, in the sea off Torquay in February. Earlier, he had tried to strangle his estranged wife, Juliet, aged 22, in an argument over the child. Yeomans pleaded not guilty to murder, but admitted manslaughter and grievous bodily harm.

Football damages

The former chairman of Middlesbrough Football Club, Mr Charles Amer, and his director son, Kevan, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over an article in the magazine, *Private Eye*.

Mr Geoffrey Shaw, for Mr Amer and his son, said the magazine had apologized for alleging that they had abused their position in the building of a sports complex, built a house with materials owned by the club, and sold players not because they wanted to leave but to pay for the complex. The men were devoted to the club, he said.

Ulster job initiative

Legislation to prevent religious discrimination by employers in Northern Ireland is being prepared by the Government for the next session of Parliament.

A statutory duty to observe fair employment practices will be imposed on public sector employers.

Private employers will be asked to make declarations of practice, will be monitored to ensure compliance, and face the withdrawal of government grants and orders if they do not.

Sentence attacked

A High Court judge was accused yesterday of "disgraceful leniency" over a seven year prison sentence on a burglar convicted of a policeman's manslaughter.

Mr Justice Tucker was criticized by a Police Federation official after jailing Terence Butcher at Stafford Crown Court.

PC John Taylor, aged 26, died after falling 60 feet from a block of flats while trying to arrest Butcher.

PC Geoff Hulbert, of the Staffordshire branch of the federation, said: "Seven years is disgraceful".

Reaction to British Caledonian take-over

Unions welcome airlines merger

By John Spicer

Trade unions representing airline workers in both British Airways and British Caledonian yesterday gave an unqualified welcome to the news of the companies' proposal to merge. They said the joint company would be able to compete much more effectively and would probably make employment far more secure for the future.

Mr Mark Young, leader of the British Airline Pilots' Association and secretary of the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport — the unions' main negotiating body — said any possible reduction

in staffing would be handled easily, particularly in the light of BA's recent reduction in staff from 39,000 to 36,000 in four years without trouble. Since then BA had increased its workforce to 42,000.

Mr Young said the merger was nothing but good news for the 2,000 pilots at BA and the 500 at B-Cal. "I am confident that over the next five years, under the merged company, the number of pilots will double."

"There is no sense in two airlines like BA and British Caledonian competing on routes to New York and Los Angeles, especially when you remember that there are more

than 60 operators doing the transatlantic run. This whole industry is about size, the bigger the better."

The National Joint Council, which represents airline workers in the transport workers' union, ASTMS, Apex, Balpa and Nalgo, said it welcomed the merger. "The growth of the mega-carriers in the United States has made such a merger all but inevitable", it said.

"We are confident that with the full co-operation of the staff of both companies, the combined airline will have rapid growth potential and will be unmatched as the best airline in the industry."

British Airways said it intended to ensure that any staff reductions would be made on a voluntary basis.

● The merger will provide a mix of aircraft and aeroplanes in a newly combined fleet.

British Airways, which has rationalized predominantly on Rolls-Royce powered jets, would find itself with its first DC10-30 long haul trijets, eight of them powered by American-built General Electric engines.

Unlike BA's 34 Boeing 747s, some powered by Rolls-Royce and others by Pratt and

Whitney engines, B-Cal's five jumbos have GE engines.

As BA has held back in ordering both new short-range jets and long-haul aircraft (other than 747s), B-Cal has led the way by becoming launch customer for 10 of the new short-haul A320 twin-jet European Airbuses worth £226 million. It has also placed a £700 million order for nine 280-seat US-built McDonnell-Douglas MD-11.

These two aircraft types could point the way in which the new BA will follow with even further orders. It has already ordered 16 Rolls-Royce powered Boeing 747-400 extra-long range jumbos.

'Gatwick family' keeps on smiling

At Victoria Station in London a billboard has a smiling air stewardess with the promise: "The Gatwick Express Bringing The Caledonian Girls Closer To You".

At the airport yesterday, the British Caledonian smiles were very much professional — the product of arduous training in adversity.

It was to come in useful as the staff, most of them hearing about the proposed British Airways merger on the radio, pondered their futures.

Miss Michele Laneres, aged 22, from Belgium, became a B-Cal stewardess only six weeks ago but has already travelled to Lusaka.

"That would never have happened with British Airways. We are one big family and have an intimate image. I think BA girls are swamped by the size of the organization."

In spite of the news, the smile refused to leave the face of Miss Julie Hodgson, a member of the B-Cal ground crew.

She said: "We are hoping B-Cal's image won't be submerged."

Staff were concerned about the future of duplicated services on specific routes. But most recalled the good times, such as the 36 haggis taken on the inaugural flight to Tokyo last month — and put straight into quarantine by the authorities.



Miss Michele Laneres, one of the "Caledonian girls" on duty at Gatwick yesterday after hearing of the merger plan.

European carriers hunt for partners

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The £237 million link-up between British Airways and British Caledonian is the first of several mergers to be announced by European airlines within the next few weeks.

Discussions are at an advanced stage between a number of small independent British carriers and the big airlines in Europe to provide a financial and operational partnership.

Brymon and Eurocity Express, which will soon begin services from London City Airport (Stolport) now being built in Docklands, are anxious to tie up with airlines on the continent such as Sabena, KLM or Air France.

They have both been granted licences to fly to the main European capitals using Dash 7 propeller-driven, short take-off and landing aircraft.

The big carriers are looking at ways of linking their operations with the two British airlines. An announcement is expected next week in which a major European airline will take a dominant share in the British operations from the Stopport to the Continent.

The Dutch national airline, KLM, is already bidding for a stake in Air UK; Sabena, the Belgian national carrier, is in discussion with the Scandinavian group, SAS, and a formal merger should be announced by the end of the summer. Air Europe is establishing a charter airline in Spain and Alitalia is openly courting any independent carrier it can.

The reason for the growing move towards merger is the dominance of the American airlines and their computer reservation systems which have led to the emergence of "mega-carriers".

Those giant airlines are able to flood the market with seats, drive down prices and effectively exclude competitors from the vital reservation display units in travel agents.

But what forced Lord King into urgent action was the grapevine message that B-Cal has started talks with Alitalia, the Italian state airline. Having dealt with his first shareholders' meeting on June 29, Lord King agreed to meet Sir Adam in his Trafalgar Square office the next day. His opening gambit was: "I have a hundred million or so I could afford to let you have." Sir Adam's reaction is not recorded.

Airline merger plan

Continued from page 1

Significance of Sir Colin's speech. BA also began lobbying gently for change among its friends on the Conservative benches who have seen the largely international BA as a threat to small domestic carriers.

Soon after polling day, BA chiefs were receiving messages via senior managers that B-Cal was keen to explore possible co-operation plans.

Miners' dispute

Strike closes 10 more pits

By Roland Rudd

British Coal was taken by surprise yesterday as the miners' strike escalated in South Yorkshire, closing a further 10 pits and bringing production in the area to a standstill.

A meeting of the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers decided to ballot its 100,000 members next Monday on what form of industrial action to take over British Coal's imposition of a new disciplinary code. The results will not be known until August 21, effectively ruling out the possibility of national strike action until then.

The executive unanimously voted in favour of supporting the 13,000 miners who have now joined the strike in a total of 16 pits.

The miners have taken action in support of five men at Frickley colliery, whose wages were docked after they failed to turn up to a disciplinary hearing last Monday.

Flying pickets were outside nearly all the South Yorkshire pits' gates and a further 18 pits in North Yorkshire could join the strike next week. Ballots will be held over the weekend and the results announced on Monday.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, yesterday said: "We hope that Sir Robert Haslam (the coal board chairman) will agree to withdraw the disciplinary code and sit down with the NUM. The old code has worked well for 40 years, so why on earth they should introduce the new code, causing widespread havoc to the British coalfield, escapes my understanding."

"This is the time we say to British Coal, you've come so far — you are going no further. I'm sure my members will tell Sir Robert that if he wants a conflict of his making then he will get it."

Mr Trevor Bell, the moderate leader of the white-collar section of the NUM — the Colliery Office Staff Association — accused British Coal of being "heavy handed" and appealed for immediate negotiations.

Code that was born amid violence

The mineworkers' code of conduct and disciplinary procedures was brought in by Sir Ian MacGregor, the former coal board chairman, to combat violence both on and off colliery premises during the year-long miners' strike.

More than 1,000 miners were dismissed for alleged breaches of the code during the strike and 356 are still being refused reinstatement. At the recent annual NUM conference, delegates agreed to a ballot for a one-day strike to protest about the code.

The NUM refused to agree a pay deal last year because British Coal insisted that the code had to be accepted as part

of the negotiations. The break-away Union of Democratic Mineworkers has accepted it.

Mr Scargill and his colleagues argue that any miner can be disciplined at any time, whether or not he is at work or on private premises. Technically that is true, because the code does not specify otherwise.

For example, under the heading "Acts of gross misconduct normally resulting in summary dismissal", one item lists "fighting, intoxication by drink or evidence of drug abuse".

During the strike, when pickets toured villages and

towns looking for men regarded by them as "scabs", this item was highly relevant in the coal board's efforts to protect working miners.

But the NUM argues this is a catch-all offence that could lead to the dismissal of a miner reported for fighting in a public house. Mr Scargill claims this has already happened to one miner involved in a brawl in a miners' welfare club.

British Coal says this would not happen. It argues that the only time such a disciplinary procedure would be used was if the miner concerned was unfit for work as a result of a fight.

There are no plans to find replacement editors for radio and television news. The disappearance of these two posts is part of Mr Birt's plan to break down the barriers between news and current affairs in radio and television.

Mr Tony Hall, editor of the *Nine O'clock News*, is to become editor, news and current affairs, television. Miss Jenny Abramsky, aged 40, who edits the *Today* programme on Radio Four, is to become editor of news and current affairs, radio, with Mr Roy Walters, deputy editor of radio news, as her deputy.

The appointments were announced by Mr Birt after they were put to a meeting of the BBC board of governors yesterday morning.

Inquiry sought on SDP 'leak'

By Nicholas Wood and Philip Webster

The anti-merger group in the SDP demanded an official inquiry yesterday into the alleged leaking of the party's computerized membership lists to its pro-merger rivals.

Miss Polly Toynbee and Mr Danny Finkelstein, close colleagues of Dr David Owen in his campaign against union with the Liberals, said they would press their case when the SDP's national committee meets next Monday.

Miss Toynbee and Mr Finkelstein, both members of the committee, will press for the independent returning officer appointed for the ballot of SDP members to look into allegations that confidential party membership records were used by the pro-merger group for the mailing of campaign literature.

Mrs Rosie Barnes, SDP MP for Greenwich, the co-ordinator of the anti-merger group, said: "This is contrary to not only the rules for the conduct of the ballot agreed unanimously by the SDP national committee, but it is also a breach of the SDP constitution. There has been a constant stream of complaints from SDP members receiving pro-merger literature through the post."

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP president and a pro-merger campaigner, denied the allegations earlier this week.

Meanwhile, Mr Charles Kennedy, the only one of five SDP MPs campaigning for a merger, said yesterday this young Alliance activists could leave politics if the union with the Liberals failed to go ahead.

Mr Kennedy, MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye, told a Westminster press conference of young SDP candidates that he would accept the result of the ballot whichever way it went. He said he was sad that other people had said they would not accept it.

The press conference was told that more than two-thirds of SDP parliamentary candidates favoured a merger.

Mr Kennedy said that a number of young Alliance politicians would probably do something else if there was no merger. "That would be a tragedy and that is why we are all campaigning so hard to avoid such an outcome."

BBC news directorate named

By Ruth Gledhill

The BBC yesterday announced the management team that is to head the news and current affairs directorate under the control of Mr John Birt, the deputy director general.

All but one of the new appointments are internal promotions. The exception is Mr Samir Shah, aged 35, a former colleague of Mr Birt and editor of the *London Programme* at London Weekend Television.

He will join the BBC on August 10 as the editor, news and current affairs, television.

Mr Ron Neil, editor of television news, has been appointed deputy director, news and current affairs to answer directly to Mr Birt.

The editor of radio news, Mr Larry Hodgson, has been appointed editor, news and current affairs, regional broadcasting.

There are no plans to find replacement editors for radio and television news. The disappearance of these two posts is part of Mr Birt's plan to break down the barriers between news and current affairs in radio and television.

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The Jeffrey Archer libel case Lawyer agrees he wanted to destroy Tory party deputy

By Paul Valley

The solicitor who first set in motion rumours about a sexual scandal involving Mr Jeffrey Archer said yesterday that he was prepared to destroy the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party "because he was a hypocrite".

Mr Aziz Kurtha was giving evidence in the High Court in Mr Archer's libel action against *The Star* over allegations that he had sexual intercourse with a prostitute, Miss Monica Coghlan.

Asked about Mr Archer's description of him as obviously evil, Mr Kurtha said Mr Archer was "a very evil man and a great liar".

Mr Kurtha, who like most of the witnesses called by *The Star*, appeared only under subpoena, said yesterday that the morning after he had seen Mr Archer with a prostitute he contacted the magazine, *Private Eye*.

But a journalist there, Mr Paul Halloran, had told him the story was "too big" for the fortnightly magazine and suggested that Mr Kurtha should approach a tabloid newspaper. Mr Halloran put Mr Kurtha in touch with Mr Eddie Jones,



Mr Kurtha, the original accuser

chief investigator of the *News of the World*.

Mr Kurtha, who said he once had ambitions to become a Labour MP, had then tried to enter into an arrangement with the newspaper that the story was published only under certain conditions.

Those were that Mr Kurtha's name should not be disclosed, that £10,000 be paid to a mutually agreed charity, and that no subterfuge should be used in preparing the story.

I knew the story would damage him. He would lose the position he held

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, counsel for Mr Archer, asked him: "You knew all the time that the story would gravely damage Jeffrey Archer?"

Mr Kurtha said: "I knew it would certainly damage him".

The judge, Mr Justice Caulfield, intervened to say: "You knew it would kill him, didn't you?"

Mr Kurtha: "He's still alive, isn't he?"

Mr Justice Caulfield: "You know what I mean, it would destroy him".

Mr Kurtha: "He certainly would lose the position he held. I was prepared to destroy him because he was a hypocrite".

Mr Kurtha later dropped his connection with the *News of the World*. On three occasions he told them he would withdraw unless he was allowed to participate in the way they were to use the story, he said.

But it became increasingly obvious that the newspaper was wriggling out of this commitment. He suspected it did not intend to make the payment to charity. He began, he said, to learn that its methods of operating were "mischievous" and "despicable". Mr Eddie Jones, he discovered, was "a very mendacious and tricky person". His colleagues were "so and so's" and "worms".

At no time until publication of the article, Mr Kurtha said, was he aware of "the horrible, hounding phone calls" which were being made by the prostitute to Mr Archer under the paper's supervision.

Mr Alexander asked why Mr Kurtha had not confessed when Mr Archer's solicitor

had written to ask if he was the person who was "going around the Fleet Street underworld peddling the story". Mr Kurtha replied that it was not his job to put on a plate the perfect grounds for libel.

Mr Archer has filed a suit to be heard at a future date against the *News of the World* over an article which said that he paid Miss Coghlan a large sum of money to buy her silence.

Mr Alexander went on to question Mr Kurtha's evidence about the meeting between Mr Archer and the prostitute on the steps of the Albion Hotel in central London.

Mr Kurtha said he saw Mr Archer four feet away from him that night. The politician had put his hands over his face and averted his head, as if he had been recognized.

Mr Alexander: "Then he bounded in as bold as brass with you in the vicinity?"

Mr Kurtha: "Yes".

Mr Alexander: "Did that not surprise you?"

Mr Kurtha: "I would not have done it. But I think he's quite a gambler. Mr Archer is an all or nothing man, a big gambler".

Mr Alexander: "You would have to be quite a gambler to behave in that particular way wouldn't you?"

Mr Kurtha: "You would".

Later Mr Kurtha contradicted evidence given by the prostitute, Miss Coghlan, when he told the court that she had asked him if she could make any money from the affair.

Mr Alexander then asked him to comment on a section of the telephone calls between Miss Coghlan and Mr Archer, in which Mr Archer had described him as "obviously an evil man".

Gesticulating towards Mr Archer he said: "I think Mr Archer is a very evil man and a great liar".

At the end of his evidence the judge intervened to ask if he felt the *News of the World* had double crossed him. Mr Kurtha replied: "Yes, my lord".

Mr Justice Caulfield said: "Did that grossly irritate you?" Mr Kurtha said: "My lord, it did. But if you lie down with dogs you cannot complain you have fleas".

The case continues today.

Female first in the firing line



Sergeant Liz Robbins, of the Army Cadet Force, with a new purpose-built 5.56mm rifle. Miss Robbins, aged 17, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, was the first female cadet to fire the rifle, known as the Ensign, after a hand-over ceremony at Ash ranges, Surrey, which was conducted by Major General Charles Ramsay, Director General Territorial Army and Organization (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Increased demand for Aids tests puts pressure on clinics

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Many more women are seeking Aids tests because of increasing fears about the heterosexual spread of the disease, specialists say.

A surge in the number of women and heterosexual men asking to be tested reflects anxieties about previous love affairs or liaisons, experts at two London hospitals report in the *British Medical Journal* today.

The Government's publicity campaign on Aids last winter produced up to seven times as many people as before wanting the test, putting staff in clinics under "enormous pressure".

Of more than 2,400 people tested, only three women were found to be positive compared with 224 men.

At the Middlesex Hospital clinic in central London, there were 37 positives among 641 tests during the last three months of 1986. None was a woman. 32 were homosexuals, three were bisexuals and two were heterosexuals.

At the clinic at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, 1,782

tests for antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) were conducted between December 1, 1985, and November 30, 1986. Of those, 190 were positive.

The proportion of heterosexuals tested in the last three months of the year rose to 70 per cent from 52 per cent earlier in the year.

Professor Michael Adler and colleagues at the Middlesex say: "The reason given most often by women for testing was previous sexual intercourse with bisexual, or possibly bisexual, men."

"Heterosexual men were most often concerned about previous casual encounters or contact with prostitutes."

Although demand had slackened by last April, both groups of specialists express concern about the demands on their resources.

The Middlesex team says: "We do not see our workload decreasing, rather the opposite. It is time for an urgent reappraisal of staffing levels in clinics for sexually transmitted diseases."

Shop raid victim was left 'close to death'

Two teenage brothers left a shop assistant close to death after a £147 raid at a village store in Lakenheath, Suffolk, a court was told yesterday.

Harvey Stevens, aged 16, was said to have coiled a thin nylon rope round the assistant's neck while his brother, Mark Stevens, aged 14, kept watch outside the Valken Drugstore in High Street, Lakenheath.

Mr David Stokes, for the prosecution, told Norwich Crown Court that Miss Pam-

ela Banyard, aged 33, was still in a coma five months after the attack and was "to all intents and purposes" dead.

Harvey Stevens, now aged 17, of Eriswell Drive, Lakenheath, pleads not guilty to the attempted murder of Miss Banyard and not guilty to assaulting her with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

He and his younger brother, of the same address, admit robbing her of £147.

The hearing continues today.

WHAT BROUGHT GOOD NEWS TO JOHN MENZIES?

It didn't take John Menzies long to discover the new Job Training Scheme.

But selecting the right trainee took a little more time.

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HELPING YOU BRIDGE THE SKILLS GAP

ACTION FOR JOBS

Midwives' conference Bigger role sought in pregnancy care

Midwives yesterday called for greater responsibility in the care of women with normal pregnancies (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

Delegates at the Royal College of Midwives' annual conference in Manchester overwhelmingly supported a motion recommending a feasibility study into whether the management of women in normal pregnancy should be transferred from the GP and obstetric team to the midwife.

The conference also called on health authorities to review their policies so that pregnant women could approach a midwife rather than her GP as a first point of contact with the health service.

Midwives argued that GPs were often given special payments to cover antenatal care for their patients when the work was done by the midwife.

Sometimes the GP attended the antenatal clinics but left the midwife to undertake the work and in some cases the GP did not even visit the

clinic, but was still paid. "My share for the work was a £10 gift voucher at Christmas", Miss Pat Johnson from Sheffield, said.

At present GPs and obstetricians are responsible for overseeing a woman's pregnancy from beginning to end, but Miss Ann Newman from Swansea argued that midwives had the training and experience to handle most pregnancies, unless complications set in.

"The majority of pregnant women in 1987 are basically healthy women who deliver healthy babies."

Although doctors gave some advice on smoking and diet they were mainly concerned with women who were ill.

"Only midwives are committed to normal pregnancy and breast feeding and the pregnant woman should have the choice to be put under their care. We all know when to bring the doctor in if there is a problem."

First baby for Post method of fertilization

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The first baby conceived by Post (peritoneal oocyte and sperm transfer) was born at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, last Saturday.

The technique, developed by doctors working with Professor Stuart Campbell, of King's College Medical School, and Dr Bridgette Mason, of the Hammersmith Medical Centre, London, is simpler, quicker and cheaper than other fertilization methods.

Twelve pregnancies have been established among 36 women taking part in tests.

The baby, Kimberley Alice Seaby, weighed 6lb 10oz. Her mother, Mrs Liz Seaby, aged 35, a district nursing sister, had stopped fertility treatment after four years of trying unsuccessfully to conceive.

The Post procedure avoids the need for a general anaesthetic and the surgical intervention of laparoscopy.

Instead the eggs are removed with a special syringe from the ovary under local anaesthetic and replaced in a solution containing sperm

Weekend food prices

Bargains down on the farm

We are now enjoying the best time for home produced fruit and vegetables, and a visit to a pick-your-own farm could make a pleasant and economical family outing.

Strawberries in the shops cost between 70p and £1.20 a pound but are only 40-50p a pound if you go to pick your own. Raspberries in the shops cost £1.60-£2.20 a pound, 45-50p at the farms.

The British cherry season is in full swing and the fruit costs from 70p to £1 a pound. Imported cherries are more expensive at 80p-£1.50.

Many of the best salad ingredients are also home grown. Iceberg lettuce 50-80p a head, round lettuce 20-30p, tomatoes 35-55p a pound, celery 40-60p each, spring onions 20-32p a bunch.

Home grown peas 25-40p a pound, broad beans 30-50p, marrow 50-60p each, caul-

flowers 35-55p a head, courgettes 30-55p a pound, new potatoes 10-14p a pound, and broccoli 60-90p a pound are all excellent.

Whole fresh chicken costs from 84-98p a pound, drumsticks £1.06-£1.39 a pound and boneless birds are between 53p and 68p a pound, drumsticks 99p-£1.16 and boneless breast £1.38.

Although retailers in the north of England and Scotland report slight difficulties with fish supplies, elsewhere quality and quantity are good.

Scottish and West Country plaice is in peak condition, very plump and costing 80p-£1.40 a pound. The selection of oily fish at Billingsgate is restricted. There are no herrings but there are twice weekly arrivals of new season Norwegian mackerel and some smaller mackerel from

the West Country at about 82p a pound. Huss is down in price to about £1.10 a pound and pin hake at 80p a pound is a good buy. More expensive sea bass is about £5 a pound. Small turbot at £3.75 a pound are also available.

Shellfish are in good supply, with cockles about £1.20 a pound, shrimps, whelks and winkles £1 a pound, and small hen crabs £1.20 each.

Meat and poultry on promotion this week are: Asda, whole fresh chicken 69p a pound, sirloin steak fresh and frozen £2.99 a pound; Presto, whole fresh Scottish salmon £2.75 a pound, rolled topside of beef £1.88 a pound; Sainsbury, minced beef 88p a pound; Bejam, Buxted basted chicken 49p a pound, sirloin steak 2lb 6oz for £5.47 (down 50p); Dewhurst, leg of lamb steaks £2.29 a pound, barbecue packs £1.99-£9.99 each.

Nuclear
test
report
denied

An article in *The Independent* newspaper today about a nuclear weapons test in 1974 was untrue, Mr John Wakeham, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said in the Commons.

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C) asked about the article during business questions. He asked Mr Wakeham if he would deny categorically the newspaper's report that a nuclear weapons test took place at North Luffenham, near Peterborough, using radioactive material with a half-life of 25 years.

He also asked Mr Wakeham to confirm that any such test would have involved low-level material described yesterday by Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, as having a three or four-month life.

Mr Wakeham said he had been in touch with Mr Freeman and confirmed "that no such material was used and that the allegation in the article in *The Independent* is untrue".

Foot call for
statement

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) asserted in the Commons that the latest developments in the dispute over Mr Peter Wright's memoirs had greatly intensified the dangers of an infringement of the freedom of the press.

"It would be quite monstrous for us to go away for the summer recess and leave the matter unresolved."

He suggested to Mr John Wakeham, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, that if he could not provide an opportunity for a debate he should at least make sure that the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, made a statement to the House next week. Mr Wakeham told him that he would refer the request to the Attorney General.

Racing on
Sundays

The House of Lords gave an unopposed second reading last night on Wednesday to Lord Wyatt of Weyford's Sunday Sports Bill, which would allow horse races and other sporting events on Sunday with admission charges and legalize the opening of licensed betting shops and on-course betting facilities after noon on Sundays.

Lord Wyatt (Ind), chairman of the Tote, with support from some peers who are members of the Jockey Club, said that his was a harmless little Bill which could hurt no one. The present 200-year-old Sunday observance laws were being openly flouted every week.

Opposition came from the Bishop of Leicester, Dr Cecil Rutt, and Viscount Brentford (C), who chaired the Keep Sunday Special campaign against the Shops Bill, and Lord Graham of Edmonton (Lab). Lord Brentford said that he was very strongly opposed to the opening of high street betting shops on Sundays.

Amusement
arcades query

Discussions about amusement arcades had been held with the Metropolitan Police last November, and the Home Office had recently asked the Association of Chief Police Officers for information on their experience of these arcades as part of the Government's review of the adequacy of the law, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said during Commons questions.

MPs had expressed concern about late-night licences and about the effect of amusement arcades on children.

Pillory for
hooligans

Sports grounds and other public places would be much safer if the Government introduced modern versions of the stocks and pillories for football hooligans and others, Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said during Commons questions.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, replied: That is the kind of humorous suggestion I have learnt to expect from Mr Marlow.

Some Opposition MPs expressed doubt that Mr Marlow had meant the remark to be taken humorously.

Crime figures

The total number of notifiable offences recorded by the police during the first quarter of this year was 951,000. Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said during Commons questions. The corresponding figure for the first quarter of 1977 was 614,500, so the average annual increase since then was 4.5 per cent.

Data orders

There would be plenty of time for orders on the Data Protection Act to be debated by the House before they came into force on November 11, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, said. The orders would be laid about October 20.

Government told
of BA's bid
about a week ago

No decision on whether to refer the bid made by British Airways for British Caledonian to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission could be made by the Government until it had received the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Trade and Industry, told the Commons.

He emphasized the same point repeatedly during exchanges in the Commons prompted by a private notice question from Mr Anthony Blair, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry.

He expected the Director General of Fair Trading to give his advice within the next few weeks and it would then be up to Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to make a decision on referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Clarke admitted that the Government had known about the possibility of a bid for about a week, but said that ministers could obviously not indicate their knowledge until after the announcement had been made at 8am today.

Mr Blair said that the proposed merger unquestionably satisfied

the criteria for referral. The first the trade unions had known about this was hearing the news on the car radio this morning on the way to a meeting called late last night.

What guarantees was the minister prepared to give on job losses? What had happened to the Government's policy of efficiency through competition?

In 1984, the Civil Aviation Authority had specifically called for a multi-airline industry and the Government had agreed with the CAA.

It was a conspicuous irony that, after years of public ownership during which BA had resisted merger and promoted competition, within months of privatization merger was proposed and competition would be stifled.

As with British Telecom, when the Government was faced with the choice between private profit and the public's rights as consumers the Government chose private profit every time.

Mr Clarke said that anyone with views on the matter should make representations to the Director General of Fair Trading as quickly as possible. Mr Blair was getting very hot under the collar and jumping the gun. Mr Nicholas Seames (Crawley, C) said that it would be a mistake to refer the bid. Decisions should be taken speedily so that the thousands of his constituents who worked for British Caledonian and British

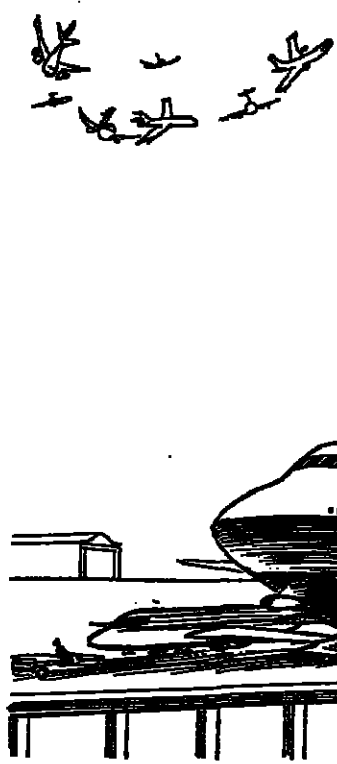
Airways could take advantage of the splendid offer contained in the merger.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, wondered how on earth the Government could square its attitude now with what it had said in a White Paper in 1984. "The Government's objective is to encourage a sound and competitive multi-airline industry with a variety of airlines of different characteristics".

That statement had been repeated in the prospectus at the time of BA's privatization. Surely the Government was not being consistent.

Mr Clarke said that the policy quoted by Mr Steel was a very sound one in 1984 (loud Opposition laughter and interruptions). The Government had not yet made any decision on the offer made by BA and nor had it given any reaction. These were all hypothetical questions. Mr Michael Grylls (Surrey North West, C) said that ministers should bear in mind that BA was not all that large in international terms when compared with those airlines against which it had to compete and B-Cal was not large enough to compete on international routes. That might be one reason for allowing this bid to go ahead.

Mr Douglas Hoyle (Warrington North, Lab) said that the chaotic situation in the industry was entirely due to the British and American governments pressing for de-regulation. That had led



Mr Anthony Blair: The proposed merger unquestionably satisfies the criteria for referral.

to the formation of "mega-airlines" in the USA.

It was very bad industrial relations practice to announce the bid in such a way that the unions got to hear about it only at 9.30am today. There must be an early decision on this case as many jobs were at stake.

Mr Clarke said that de-regulation had increased competition

on transatlantic routes and that this had been of great benefit to the industry and its passengers. Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams, C) wanted to know if the Government had been caught by surprise by the announcement or whether there had been discussions behind the scenes.

The minister should tell the Director General of Fair Trading

that if this merger went ahead 90 per cent of all airline licences would be in the hands of one company, and other licences would belong to airlines in which that company had an interest. The death knell would be sounding for the independent airlines.

Mr Alexander Salmon (Banff and Buchan, SNP) wondered

when exactly the Government began having no policy on competition in the airline industry and what that policy had been before it ceased to exist. Mr Clarke said that he had said nothing of the kind. The House would be outraged if he were to start giving instructions to the Director General of Fair Trading.

Hurd tells
of appeal
decisions

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said during question time that he could not allow his judgement about referring cases to the Court of Appeal to be affected by the possibility of an extradition agreement with the Republic of Ireland. It had been suggested that referring the Guildford bombings to the court might have brought about an extradition agreement.

Mr Chris Mullin (Sunderland South, Lab) had asked him to call for a report from the Chief Constable of West Midlands as to why West Midlands police officers had been taking statements about the Birmingham public house bombings when the inquiry was supposed to be in the hands of Devon and Cornwall Police.

Mr Hurd: I am assured by the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall that all inquiries and interviews carried out in the course of the investigation of the allegations by the former West Midlands police officer, Thomas Clarke, have been conducted by officers of his force.

Mr Mullin: There is grave disquiet about the way the inquiry is being conducted.

Mr Hurd: I am not going to enter that ground.

Chance of VAT being extended to shoes
for children is negligible, House hears

The chances of value-added tax being extended to children's clothing and shoes, among other items, was negligible, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said during Prime Minister's questions. She said that other countries were making the same view.

The subject was raised first by Mr Kinnoch: The Prime Minister said that she would not support any proposals to impose VAT on food, gas or electricity.

Why can she not bring herself to give exactly the same, precise undertaking on children's clothing and children's shoes?

Mrs Thatcher: I made very clear during the election precisely what I was saying. I would not support any proposals to impose VAT on food, gas or electricity. Why can she not bring herself to give exactly the same, precise undertaking on children's clothing and children's shoes?

Mr Hurd: I am assured by the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall that all inquiries and interviews carried out in the course of the investigation of the allegations by the former West Midlands police officer, Thomas Clarke, have been conducted by officers of his force.

Mr Mullin: There is grave disquiet about the way the inquiry is being conducted.

Mr Hurd: I am not going to enter that ground.

Minister was anything but clear during the election. Why does she not say now, in the precise terms that she has used on other items, that she would not have such a proposal coming before the House?

Or would she, like her Paymaster General (Mr Peter Brooke), suggest that such proposals would be vetoed? That is precisely what he said this morning.

Mrs Thatcher: I have already answered. He (Mr Kinnoch) will go on raising scares and we will be able to point out that on a day when unemployment is down he chose to raise another scare. Of course he did.

What he is referring to is proposals that have come forward through the European Commission. They are not out in detail.

Partly due to our very vigorous fight on the Single European Act, any tax changes can only be by unanimous vote. Not only are we opposing what Lord Cockfield is proposing, a number of our other European partners are as well.

Mr Kinnoch: The problem is raising VAT on currently zero-

PRIME MINISTER

rated items of considerable importance to the family budget.

Does she agree with the words of her Paymaster General that the Government would in fact veto VAT on food, gas or electricity?

Mrs Thatcher: The Paymaster General specifically confirmed what I said during the general election campaign and that was his precise purpose. I am well aware of the words he said.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) said that Britain's zero-rating was better than anything else in Europe. If there was harmonization, it should be on the British basis.

He (Mr Higgins) had helped, as a minister, to carry VAT through, with the help of advice from Mr Cockfield, then a civil servant. Getting rid of zero-rating would not be acceptable to the House.

Mrs Thatcher: I am clear that it would not. We must be able to determine our own structure. A number of other countries also

take the same view, that they must be free to retain their own structure. The prospect of its getting through is just negligible.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C): While we should retain control over rates of VAT and whether goods should be VAT-rated at all, the ultimate objective of the EEC Commission, a free internal market, is highly desirable and was probably the great prize we expected when we joined the EEC in the first place.

Mr Thatcher: Yes. Completion of the internal market is extremely important. There is a great deal to do in standardizing and getting safety regulations agreed for television, electrical goods, and services which generally enable us to get a full and complete internal market.

We have never accepted the view that that you need full approximation of taxation to complete the internal market.

Mr Prime Minister agreed that some people on lower incomes would be worse off when the poll tax replaced rates, but said that most would be a great deal better off.

Mrs Thatcher said, in reply to

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab), that that was because the amount that would be added to family supplements to help with paying poll tax would be an average.

Mr Martin Redmond (Don Valley, Lab): Will he explain why families who look after elderly parents and save the state money should be penalized?

Mrs Thatcher: The poorest will be protected (Labour interruptions). Oh yes. The poorest will be protected by 80 per cent rebate and also by addition to supplementary benefit.

We believe that rates are levied on far too narrow a base. It is a grossly unfair tax. Services provided by local authorities are provided on a personal basis, and people, save the poorest, should make a contribution.

Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab): Would she reconsider the poll tax? In my constituency, two adults will pay £1 a week more, three will pay £3 a week more, and four £15 a week more.

Mrs Thatcher: There will be 80 per cent rebate and there will be an addition to supplementary benefit to help people.

Labour and Tory MPs block
setting up of 'watchdogs'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Labour and Tory MPs have combined to block a last-ditch attempt to have the all-party Commons select committees, which shadow Whitehall departments, set up before the summer recess begins on July 24.

Mr David Alton, the Liberal Chief Whip, is understood to have pressed for the immediate establishment of the committees at a private meeting of the Committee of Selection on Wednesday night. However, both Labour and Conservatives on the committee argued that there simply was not time.

To discount reports that it was the Alliance that was holding up the process, Mr

Alton went armed with a list of nominations for select committee places that had been agreed by the eight minor parties at Westminster. Earlier, Alliance MPs had tabled a Commons motion describing those reports as "wholly unfounded".

Both main parties face obstacles before they can put forward names for committees.

Labour has yet to complete its front-bench team and ascertain the interests of its new members. The Government, apart from the fact that it has no vested interest in the rapid reestablishment of committees that can be thorns in its side, faces the problem of

finding enough MPs to form a majority on the Scottish and Welsh Affairs committees.

The Conservatives also face the further problem that Labour's increased representation in Parliament means that it is entitled to an extra place on most committees.

That means that the Government majority will frequently be just one. Opposition MPs therefore believe that the Government is determined to shake up existing memberships.

Senior backbench MPs have been exerting pressure on the Government to avoid a repeat of 1983 when it took seven months to restore the committees after the election.

Warning to the SDP

Young activists 'may leave'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Charles Kennedy, the Social Democrat MP, said yesterday that young Alliance activists could leave politics if the merger with the Liberals failed to go ahead.

Mr Kennedy, the only one of the five SDP MPs campaigning for a merger, criticized the fractions way the dispute was being conducted within the party. The sense of hope given by the Alliance must have evaporated for so many people in the weeks of madness since the election, he said.

Mr Kennedy, one of the youngest MPs, was appearing at a Westminster press conference with young SDP candidates who are backing the merger.

He made clear that he would accept the result of the ballot whichever way it went and said that he was not saying that people had been an obvious reference to Dr David Owen.

After it was stated at the press conference that more than two-thirds of SDP par-

liamentary candidates favoured a merger, Mr Kennedy agreed that many young Alliance politicians would probably go off and do something else if there was no merger.

"That would be a tragedy and that is why we are all campaigning so hard to avoid such an outcome."

Mr Kennedy said the candidates did not see a future in which two Alliance parties went their own ways and competed against each other. "That would be a gift to those who wish to do us down and see us consigned to the oblivion of politics."

In a joint statement, the SDP candidates said that they all hoped to be active in politics into the next century and wanted to see their ideas and philosophy embodied in the policy and programme of a political movement capable of winning power.

"We see before us therefore the urgent and challenging task to assemble the policies, the organization and the

personnel available on the centre-left of British politics into a credible movement of conscience and reform."

They said that their message and appeal to the SDP members was not to become locked in the setbacks and disappointments of the past, but to look to the opportunities and potential of the future.

"In its short history the Alliance has done best when it has taken its boldest steps and seized public imagination. We must recapture that dynamic sense of spirit and momentum again. It must not perish amid fratricide, fracture and thus failure."

Mr Kennedy suggested that merger would lead to a big increase in membership. The SDP had 66,000 members and 30,000 supporters who had offered donations. If those supporters saw a merged, credible and united new political party they could well become active, paid-up members.

Earlier release for some prisoners
New moves lessen jail overcrowding

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, announced in a Commons statement that he is taking immediate steps to ease the overcrowding in prisons. His plans include earlier release for some prisoners of good behaviour, the use of a camp in Wiltshire and the speeding up of the prison building programme.

He is also setting up a review of the parole system.

The proposals were generally welcomed by the Opposition, but Conservative MPs expressed misgivings about the early release proposals.

Mr Hurd said that last Friday the prison population stood at 51,029, nearly 4,000 more than a year ago and over 9,300 above the certified normal accommodation.

The main reason for the latest growth in the population is the substantial increase in the number of offenders being dealt with

by the Crown court and an increase in the average length of sentence. Moreover, the number of prisoners held on remand has gone up by about a further 1,000 over the past year to more than 11,000.

Sentencing decisions were for the courts, but the Government had a responsibility to make sure that the decisions of the courts were not frustrated by lack of prison accommodation.

There were 5,000 prisoners crammed three to a cell designed for one and a further 14,000 were doubled up.

The building programme involved the opening of 20 new prisons as well as refurbishment of existing prisons and this would have delivered a total of 17,500 more prison places by 1995.

In recent months the rise in the population had outstripped the supply of new places and the

gap between supply and demand looked set to grow wider.

"I have therefore taken the following decisions. Immediate steps are being authorized to secure the opening on a temporary basis of a camp for prisoners - Rolleston in Wiltshire - which will hold 360 inmates. This will be managed and staffed by prison service personnel. I shall keep the need for further camps or other additional accommodation under close review."

"It takes too long to build a prison in this country. I am therefore setting up a new prisons building board within the Home Office, but with a strong outside element to supervise the building programme, to exploit to the full private sector techniques in bringing new prisons on stream."

"I have considered but rejected using the power of executive release to ease the pressure of the prison population."

"Rather I propose to lay amendments to the rules for Prison Department establishments increasing the amount of remission dependent on good behaviour by those serving sentences of up to and including 12 months from one third to one half of sentence length. This is an interim measure, applying only to less serious offenders serving short custodial sentences and the period of remission on good conduct."

As it takes effect over the coming weeks it will help the present problem of overcrowding to the extent of about 3,500 places. He was setting up a thorough review of the workings of the parole system and post-custodial supervision. The chairman would be Mr Mark Carlisle.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

such bitter passions in the SDP of all parties, which was always thought to be the political home of sweet reason?

One possible clue was offered yesterday morning at a press conference held by Mr Charles Kennedy, the one SDP MP now in favour of merger, and a group of younger SDP candidates in last month's election. As they were leaving, one of them remarked to me: "The difference is that none of us here today knew Hugh Gaitskell."

The potency of Gaitskell's

memory as a force on the centre-left of British politics should never be underestimated. It was one of the reasons why Dr Owen and others like him left Labour. They were not prepared to sacrifice the Gaitskellite principle of combining a sound defence policy with a passion for social justice.

When a younger Social Democrat says in effect that he is not similarly in thrall to Gaitskell's memory, he might be indicating that he is not so insistent on a strong defence. That would be tragic.

But it is more likely that he means he does not see today's battles in terms of Gaitskell's war. He can therefore distinguish more easily between tactics and principles. He will be less inclined to regard disagreements as conspiracies, and to be mistrustful of his own powers of persuasion.

Whether this is a true reflection of the attitudes of younger Social Democrats may be critical for a new united party. It will need to be more than an extension of the Liberal party and will therefore require a strong contribution from Social Democrats who can bring a rigorous approach to policy without the legacy of having fought the Liberals for years.

Police
after a
on inn
school

Judge tells guilty officers 'You betrayed your manhood'

Police jailed after attack on innocent schoolboys

By Michael McCarthy

Three London policemen who attacked a group of innocent schoolboys and their colleagues who joined in a conspiracy to cover it up had betrayed their own manhoods, a judge said yesterday in the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Justice Kenneth Jones said the five officers had been false to the high traditions of the Metropolitan Police, and worst of all, had done much to undermine the respect which right thinking citizens should and do have for the police force.

Passing sentence on the group of officers concerned in the attack on the boys, who were returning from a fair in Holloway, north London, on a Saturday night in August 1983, he told the five: "I propose to make an example of you all".

Edward Main and Nicholas Wise, both aged 27, and Michael Gavin, aged 28, who were found guilty of assaulting four of the boys, occasioning them actual bodily harm, and assaulting the fifth, and of conspiring to pervert the course of justice by making false statements concerning the assault, were each sentenced to a total of four years' imprisonment.

Michael Parr, aged 28, who was cleared of the assault charges but found guilty of the conspiracy charge, was sentenced to a total of 18 months and Colin Edwards, the sergeant aged 34 who had been in charge of their mobile patrol van, was sentenced to a total of three years for his part in the conspiracy and for failing in his duty as an officer to stop the assaults or bring the perpetrators to justice.

Describing the attack, and the conspiracy of silence which followed and defeated Scotland Yard investigators for more than two years, the judge said: "To be called upon to sentence five police officers is as heavy a burden as a judge can be expected to bear, but I have a duty, and this was a disgraceful offence. You behaved like vicious hooligans and lied like common criminals."

He told the officers: "This was a brutal, bullying, unprovoked attack upon innocent schoolboys who had given you no particular provocation and no particular trouble, yet you turned upon them and beat them brutally as you did".

Turning to the conspiracy of silence, the judge said it was bad enough that Edwards, who had been in command, had done nothing about the attack at the time.

"But then, in order to save your own skins, you all conspired together to lie and lie again, and did nothing to repair the damage you had done, but were prepared to allow suspicion and discredit to fall upon other brother officers in the Metropolitan Police."

He was satisfied that Edwards was the ring leader of the conspiracy, he said.

The final verdicts at the end of the trial, which had lasted more than a month, were delivered late yesterday afternoon after a 17-hour retirement by the jury, spread over three days.

Two of the victims of the assault, Mr Danny Jenkins and Mr Baltimore Ranger, both aged 20, were in court yesterday but walked angrily out in mid-afternoon when Parr was cleared of the assault charges.

Later Mr Jenkins said: "I am glad that justice has been done. I was seriously considering joining the Metropolitan Police at the age of 16 but after the assault I just said, this isn't the job for me."

The most serious concern left after the policemen involved were jailed yesterday is that it took so long for them to be identified.

Scotland Yard was unable to trace the officers concerned.

in spite of three inquiries. In February 1986 senior officers wrote the case off as unsolvable. The victims had been paid thousands of pounds in compensation; but the perpetrators, the Yard admitted, had got off scot-free.

The thugs from van November 33 were only brought to justice because of a spirited media campaign which forced the re-opening of the inquiry with a new element that proved decisive: the prospect of immunity for any officer who witnessed the attack but did not actually take part.

The Metropolitan Police certainly appreciated at once the gravity of the case and there is no doubt that the initial investigation, led by Det Chief Insp Norman Wilcock, of the Complaints Investigation Branch, CIB2, was vigorously pursued. Mr Wilcock quickly narrowed down the suspected police vans to three and in the next few weeks interviewed nearly seventy witnesses.

But, neither he, nor Det Chief Insp Alan Evershed, who reviewed the inquiry in 1984, nor Det Chief Supt Ronald Hay, who took it over in 1985, could pin down the guilty men.

From the start the investigating officers faced the obstacle of group solidarity, as powerful in the lower ranks of the Metropolitan Police as in any other close-knit organization of people bound by emotional ties of comradeship, common interest and attitude.

It was strong enough, the case made abundantly clear, to override the interests of justice among those who have sworn to uphold it.

Only three of the eight-man crew of November 33, Police Constables Edward Main, Michael Gavin and Nicholas Wise, carried out the assault; their four colleagues, PCs Michael Parr, Kevin Luxford, Philip Bosk and Derek Jamieson, and their sergeant, Colin Edwards, looked on astonished, and, they later maintained, appalled.

But not appalled enough to tell of what they had seen. "Policemen don't shop on their mates", Mr Jamieson said. He was the one who, eventually, did tell.

In the week after the attack, the crew of November 33 met in Whittington Park in Highgate and agreed, the innocent with the guilty, to preserve a common front of deception: every one made false statements, including the supervising officer, Sergeant Edwards.

The investigators from CIB2 quickly and mistakenly became convinced that November 30 was the guilty vehicle and Mr Wilcock's conviction coloured all subsequent police inquiries. He based it on the descriptions the boys had given of their attackers.

Very likely, no one would ever have come forward but for the campaign led by the *London Evening Standard* and *Police Review*, and for the troubled mind of PC Jamieson.

Media pressure forced Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, to reopen the inquiry, with two significant new inducements to possible witnesses: a hotline telephone number and the possibility of immunity from prosecution to any officer who did not actually take part in the attack.

PC Jamieson had been the radio operator in November 33, sitting in the front passenger seat next to PC Luxford, the driver, and neither had joined in the assaults. With the other officers they all joined in the cover-up, however, and Jamieson told the Central Criminal Court why: "I was afraid of what might happen if I did come forward".



Colin Edwards



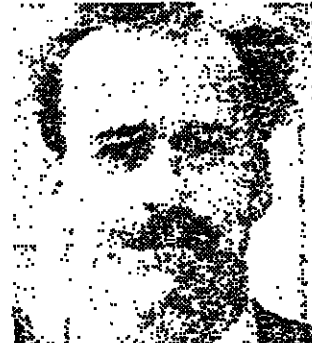
Michael Parr



Michael Gavin



Mr Derek Jamieson



Edward Main



Nicholas Wise

Broadcast right to reply advocated

Safeguards for people who are to be criticized on radio or television shows are advocated by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission in its annual report, published yesterday (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

The commission says people and organizations should be given the chance to reply to criticism before programmes are broadcast, and they should not be refused meetings with programme producers without adequate reason.

It says that in news and current affairs programmes it is not always possible to achieve balance within a single programme, but the subject should be dealt with in a balanced way over a reasonable period of time.

The commission dealt with 53 complaints about radio and television programmes, of which 21 were the subject of full adjudications. Twelve were upheld, including nine in part only.

Nineteen were complaints of unjust or unfair treatment, 13 in television programmes and six in radio programmes. Report of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission 1987 (Stationery Office, £6.90). The powers of the parliamentary ombudsman are being widened to investigate complaints against a further 50 public bodies.

Moderate voice reasserts itself in Whitehall union

By Roland Rudd

Mr John Ellis, leader of Whitehall's largest union, the Civil and Public Services Association, said yesterday that he was "back in the driving seat" and ready to reassert his leadership after members voted against an all-out strike by 53,251 votes to 19,468.

Since the Trotskyist broad left swept the elections for the executive of the 150,000-strong CPSSA, its moderate general secretary had become an isolated and impotent leader.

This week's result breathed new life into the placid trade union leader, who was quick to fire the first warning shots across the militant bow: "The membership sees things in a different light from the clap-trap the young militants believed in."

The vote, which ends a 15-week campaign of industrial action, is a bitter blow to the militant-dominated executive.

Mr John Macreadie, the deputy general secretary and a key supporter of the militants, had taken it as axiomatic that most members would support an all-out strike.

Mr Ellis said: "Mr Macreadie now has to come to terms with the fact that he is my deputy and it is only the

polemics of the union which has allowed him to assume the leadership of a faction".

After the announcement of the result, Mr Macreadie said the length of the campaign and the split with the Society of Civil and Public Servants had clearly cooled the fervour of some members.

Mr Ellis has emphasized that he will not allow a hostile executive to strip him of his powers.

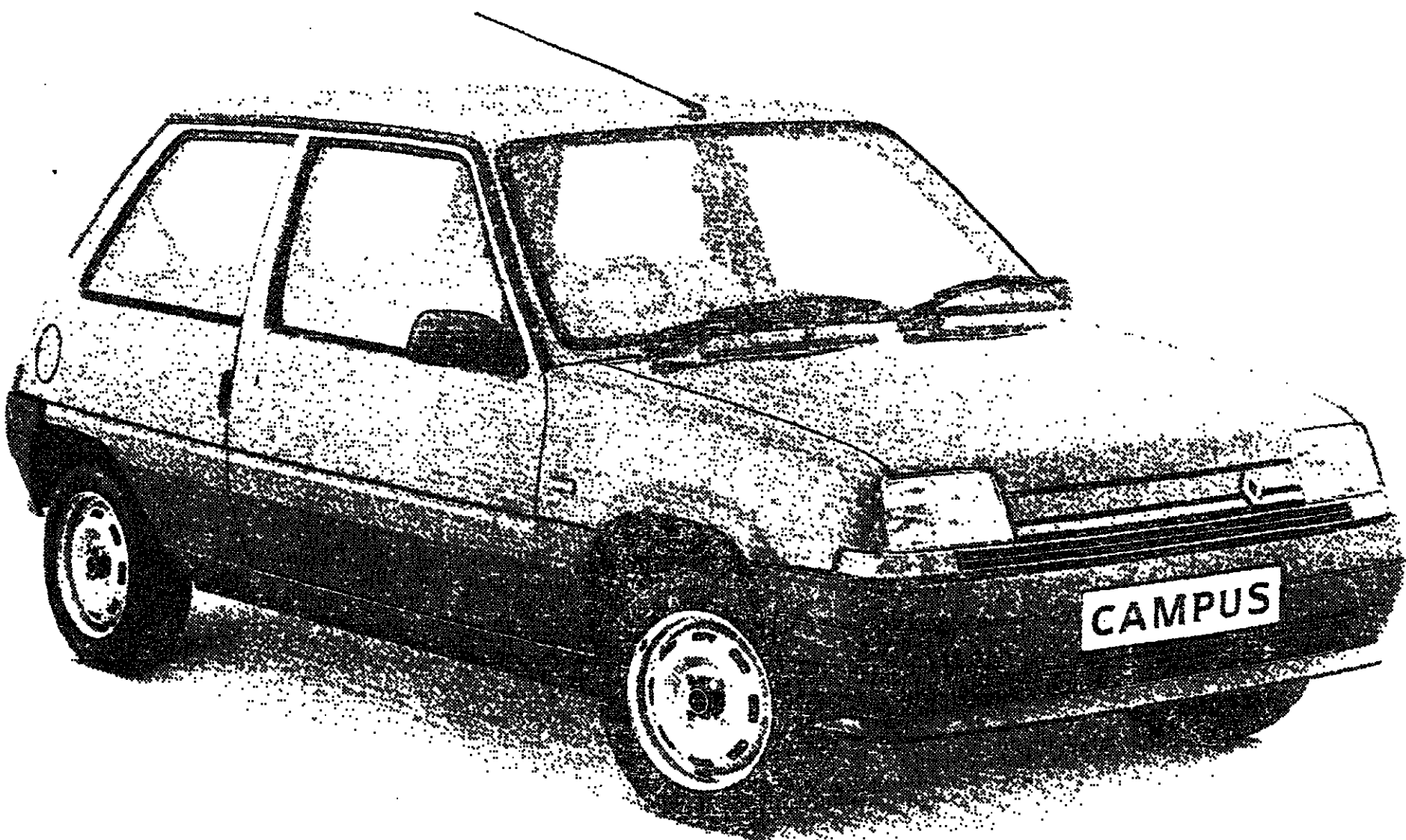
However, Mr Alistair Graham, director of the Industrial Society and former general secretary of the CPSSA, is urging Mr Ellis to go one step further and embrace the Treasury's proposals on "performance pay".

Mr Graham is warning his former union that performance pay could be the only way of securing reasonable bonuses from managers.

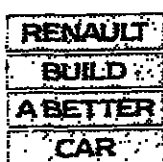
As the Government has already imposed its 4.25 per cent pay offer over the heads of union leaders, Mr Ellis does not have much room for manoeuvre.

The general secretary will send a circular to his members next Monday. He hopes the Treasury, in pay discussions, will not ignore the fact that 20,000 Civil Servants were prepared to go on an indefinite strike.

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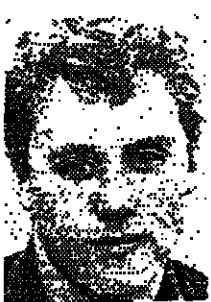
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Gary Foley



Eric Ranger



Dursant Nalbant (left), Dan Jenkins and Baltimore Ranger.



The inner cities

Whitehall urged to double cash outlay on urban renewal

By Christopher Warnan, Property Correspondent

The Government should double its urban programme from £400 million to £800 million a year within the next five years to give incentives to local government and the private sector for the regeneration of Britain's inner cities, a report on private house building in the inner cities concludes.

It states that more new and renovated homes, both for sale and for rent, are urgently needed, primarily for people already living in inner cities, and emphasizes the need for a partnership between the Government, local government and the private sector.

The report was published yesterday by the Inner City Commission, set up last year by the House Builders' Federation in response to calls on private house-builders to devote more energy to the inner cities.

The independent commission is chaired by Mr Wyndham Thomas, formerly general manager of Peterborough new town and director of the Town and Country Planning Association.

The commission believes that partnership between the three sectors is the most effective way to achieve regeneration quickly, and where local authorities are willing to help, they should be given encouragement by increased grants and allowed to use more of the capital receipts they gain from sales.

But where local authorities

cannot or will not co-operate, agencies should be created by the Government to do the job.

In London, where the rate of new house building is particularly low and the complexities of assembling and preparing land are great, a special land agency for the whole of London should be established.

The theme that land assembly is the key to solving the problem runs throughout the report.

Launching the report, Mr Thomas said the commission welcomed the Government's commitment to relieving the problems of the inner cities.

"Our findings emphatically underline the need for more house building in the inner cities, and for the public and private investment on which it will depend.

"Moreover, new inner city housing must be built for its own sake as an essential component of regeneration."

In addition to the necessary extra funds for housing, it was important to establish the right administrative and planning framework in which the public sector could co-operate with the private sector, and local authorities must be prepared to lead the process of attracting private investment.

"But the Government must encourage them to do so, by removing the financial penalties they currently suffer. It must encourage them to use their land assembly and com-

pulsory purchase powers, and allow them to negotiate social housing where they have facilitated and encouraged private house building."

Only where local authorities could not or would not co-operate should agencies be imposed, and where this was the case, land agencies (modelled on the Land Authority for Wales) should be established, Mr Thomas said.

Among the report's 46 recommendations, house builders are asked to adopt a more positive role in inner city regeneration, in particular by undertaking more research into the housing requirements of inner city dwellers, especially ethnic minorities.

They should be more resourceful in seeking out vacant and under used urban land with house building potential, and they should take further steps to demonstrate to local authorities the benefits of co-operating in the refurbishment of rundown and hard-to-let council property.

Commenting on the report, Mr Peter Short, president of the HBF, said his organization would seek urgent discussions with government ministers and local authorities to consider how it could help to accelerate the rate of building in the inner cities.

Private Housebuilding in the Inner Cities (HBF, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AD, £10).

Prince praises Japanese jobs role

By Peter Davenport

The Prince of Wales yesterday praised the role of Japanese companies whose investment in the UK was helping to regenerate depressed areas such as the North-east.

The region he said was rising "rather like a phoenix, from the ashes of an older, industrial past".

The Prince was speaking as he opened the factory of Komatsu UK, which manufactures earth moving and

construction equipment at its site at Birtley in Co Durham.

He said he found it "encouraging and heartwarming" that the company was putting the skills of previously redundant workers to new uses.

"I am delighted, as are most people in Britain, that the Japanese are here in increasingly large numbers supplying much needed investment."

The site at Birtley formerly belonged to the American owned Caterpillar Company,

which closed in 1984 with the loss of a thousand jobs.

The factory was bought for £2 million by the now abolished Tyne and Wear County Council. Komatsu paid the authority the same figure to acquire the site.

Yesterday the company announced that it expected to take on a further 100 workers above its original target. When in full production the factory would create 600 additional jobs among its local suppliers.

Dancers stepping out for the Proms



The Merce Cunningham Dance Company in the rain yesterday outside the Albert Hall in London where on Sunday the dancers will become the first international company to appear at the Proms. On Tuesday the American company opens for a two-week season at Sadler's Wells with five works new to Britain. Merce Cunningham, who formed his company in 1953, will dance at every performance (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

MPs' warning on need to implement Falklands lessons

Declining budget threatens Navy's standards

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Government attempts to save money by postponing orders for new warships had alarming implications for the future of the Royal Navy, the all-party defence select committee said yesterday.

Failure to order three new ships a year would mean the surface fleet falling below the benchmark figure of 50, accompanied by declining standards, lower reliability and demoralization.

Ultimately the Navy "may be unable to meet Nato force goals and other national commitments".

Just six ships had been ordered in the past three years. The Navy was becoming overstretched. Participation in Nato exercises had dropped by a third. Maintenance and training was suffering.

Orders for ships had to be placed well in advance but, the committee said: "We are not

convinced that decisions are being taken at the right time, and attribute this to the financial constraints facing the Ministry of Defence".

The stark warning of the Conservative-controlled committee comes in a comprehensive progress report on

right lessons so painfully learnt must not be negated by lack of funds".

Of particular concern was the Government's continued delay in announcing its decision on replacing the assault ships, Fearless and Intrepid. Britain's amphibious capab-

There had been no apparent progress towards forming an RAF tactical reconnaissance squadron.

Ammunition stores had not been increased, although usage in the Falklands had been much higher than expected. It was "foolhardy" to ignore

they had to do without the proven Sea Wolf defence system.

Improvements to equipment used by land forces were threatened because in this field substantial savings could not be achieved by cutting any single important item.

"At times of financial stringency it is tempting to make savings by trimming around the edges: we remain concerned that this may happen with regard to some of the measures considered necessary immediately after the campaign."

Britain was lagging behind in electronic warfare, and the field of command, control, communications and intelligence was "the Cinderella of defence procurement", constantly losing out against the immediate requirements of the battlefield.

Defence Select Committee: Implementing the Lessons of the Falklands Campaign (Stationery Office, £8.60).

The report generally praises the performance of both the services and their equipment in the Falklands, but delivers sharp criticism in a few specific areas.

It says, for example, that it was "extraordinary" that no one had appreciated the dangers of placing fuel tanks high in ships instead of below the waterline.

implementation of the lessons of the Falklands war.

It is full of examples of how remedies for deficiencies exposed in the heat of war are being delayed because of a declining budget.

Mr Michael Mates, the committee chairman, said great strides had been made but said that "efforts to put

ity had to be maintained and it was vital that new ships were available on time.

The six-month option for buying two more Boeing A-7s early-warrior aircraft had passed. Plans to build six new auxiliary oiler and replenishment ships were "extremely vulnerable to budgetary constraints".

The new Type 42 destroyers had been shortened to save money, with the result that

We view this scene with profound sorrow and horror. Treacherous terrorists cowardly murdered during an attack on a Turkish village 30 innocent civilians including seven women and 16 children. No justification of this inhuman act is possible. As members of a women's association, we understand this mother's last efforts to protect her child, even as terrorist bullets were ending her life, as a profoundly meaningful manifestation of the nobility and sanctity of maternity.

Our pain and sadness is deepened by the support provided to terrorists through solemn resolutions sponsored by some European Parliamentarians, especially by those who claim to carry the standard of humanitarian concern and human rights. Day-in, day-out terrorist acts are perpetrated by individuals, groupings, even states. They resort to terrorism to pursue their political aims. They cynically sacrifice innocent people.

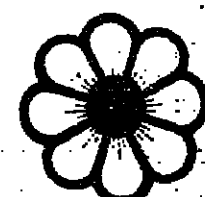
What good can an edifice serve if its foundation is stained with the blood of a mother and her child, this nucleus which symbolizes human existence?

We therefore appeal to all women and mothers in the world: let us join together to condemn terrorist murderers. Let us continue our joint struggle for our children's life, countries' future and world peace. Let us swear we will do all which is necessary to restore respect for the mother and the child.



Pinarok, 21 June 1987

We urge all nations especially those which proclaim support for civilization and human rights, to remember our victims and to relentlessly combat terrorism. Our sorrow over the loss of our fellow citizens in this latest incident is great. We express our condolences to their families and the Turkish people. We share their suffering. We will neither forget nor forgive those who have caused this pain.



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مركز المرأة التركية

WORLD SUMMARY

Paris says police cordon will stay

Paris — France will not remove the police cordon around the Iranian Embassy in Paris, the French Interior Ministry said yesterday in response to a threat by Iran to break off diplomatic relations unless it is lifted (Diana Geddes writes).

French police have been conducting rigorous identity checks on those entering or leaving the embassy since the end of last month, when it was first suspected that Mr Wahid Gerdji, effectively the embassy's number two, was hiding there. Police have also been patrolling the sewers and roofs around the building to ensure that he does not escape.

Mr Gerdji is wanted for questioning about last year's terrorist bombing campaign in Paris.

Tunis riot quelled

Tunis (Reuters) — Riot police clashed with more than 200 stone-throwing protesters and fired tear gas to break up one of the most violent of recent demonstrations in support of an Islamic opposition party in central Tunis yesterday.

The demonstrators carried banners supporting the Islamic Tendency Movement, which the state accuses of belonging to a pro-Iranian network aiming to topple the Government.

The movement's leader, Mr Rachid Ghannouchi, was arrested in March shortly before Tunisia broke off ties with Tehran after the alleged discovery of the anti-government network. Dozens of supporters have been jailed in connection with other protests.

Pretoria anger

Johannesburg (Reuters) — South Africa said yesterday it was withdrawing its ambassador-designate to France until further notice in a dispute over the jailing of a French teacher in a black South African homeland.

Mr R.F. 'Pik' Botha, the Foreign Minister, accused President Mitterrand of France of acting in a "spiteful, inappropriate manner" for refusing to accept the credentials of Mr Hendrik Geldenhuys in protest at the imprisonment of Pierre-Andre Albertini in Ciskei for refusing to testify in a terrorism trial.

Player defects to West

Oslo — Mrs Crina Rauta, aged 27, the Romanian volleyball player, was reported yesterday to have defected to the West after a European championship qualifying match in Kristiansand (Tony Samstag writes).

She was said to be visiting friends in the Lofoten Islands and to be in regular telephone contact with her husband and 18-month-old son at their home in the Moldavian town of Galati. A spokesman for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the defection, which happened in May.

Hope for hostages

Washington — General Vernon Walters, US Ambassador to the United Nations, yesterday expressed optimism that his talks with President Assad of Syria would lead to some movement towards the release of US hostages in Lebanon (Michael Binyon writes).

He said, after briefing Mr Reagan on his visit to world leaders to urge support for a Gulf ceasefire, that he had discussed the hostages, among other issues, with President Assad on July 5 and 6.

"I asked him to do everything he could to bring about the release and said he could have a positive impact in the rest of the world if he could find a way to do something. He said he would try and see what he could do."

Bishop in drugs case

Rome — A Lebanese archbishop has been arrested here after several kilos of heroin were allegedly found concealed in his robes (Roger Boyes writes). Police said yesterday that the Greek Orthodox Archbishop Boutros Innaji Abdo from Beirut may be at the centre of a large drug-smuggling ring.

Five Lebanese, two Frenchmen, a Spaniard and an Italian were also arrested after police broke into a bedroom at the Hilton Hotel and made other raids in the Italian capital, finding some people transforming drugs into "crack".

President 'knew we were involved'

A partial text of Rear-Admiral Poindexter's testimony yesterday to the congressional committee in Washington.

Mr Arthur Liman: (Senate majority committee counsel) — Do you feel that telling Congress that you were complying with the letter and spirit of Boland (the Boland Amendment mainly prohibited US government agencies from funding and supporting the Contras), given what the National Security Council (NSC) was doing, was a misleading statement?

Poindexter: I felt that the Boland Amendment did not apply to the NSC staff, and I felt that indeed we were complying with the letter and spirit of the Boland Amendment. The only thing I admit to is withholding information from the Congress. I have not said that we weren't helping the Contras. We clearly were helping the Contras, but we were also trying very hard to stay within the letter and spirit of Boland by keeping the other departments that were covered by the Boland Amendment out of the issue.

So in saying that you were complying with the letter and spirit of Boland, what you mean is that the NSC was doing the support without the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)?

That was my understanding. And did the President understand that?

I think he did understand that.

What's that based on?

He understood that the Contras were being supported and that we were involved generally in co-ordinating the effort. He was aware of the contributions from Country Two (Saudi Arabia) and he himself felt personally, as related to me, that it was entirely appropriate for private individuals to support the Contras. And he was aware of the status of the Contras in the field. The kinds of things that he was briefed on, I think, that he was made that clear would have been briefed on every little issue involved in coordinating this effort. The items that he was briefed on were primarily in the policy area and it was a judgement call every day as to exactly what level of detail I had to get into.

Mr Richard Beckler (Admiral Poindexter's counsel): ... I am not impugning this committee by saying that you are trying to conduct a trial up here, but the long arm of the independent counsel (Mr Lawrence Walsh) has reached right down in the core of this committee and has structured every arrangement that we had with this committee in terms of providing Admiral Poindexter with fair and reasonable access to the materials that he needs ...

Representative Lee Hamilton (House Committee Chairman): ... This is not a court of law. Admiral Poindexter is not on trial here. We are trying to elicit information from him ... so that we can understand the processes of government and what happened here ... There is no effort on the part

We seldom referred any issues to White House counsel

of this committee to put Admiral Poindexter on trial. We are not trying to do that ... Your statement about the long arm of the independent counsel reaching into every activity of these committees is totally and absolutely false. We do not confer with the independent counsel, except as the statutes require us to do so. And your suggestion that the independent counsel is controlling the activities of these select committees I find most disturbing, and I reject it categorically ...

Poindexter: ... I intended to withhold information (in mid-1986, when Poindexter was on the NSC staff) from Chairman Hamilton, which I did ... I wanted to withhold information on the NSC operational activities in support of the Contras from almost every body.

Liman: ... Did the President designate the NSC to conduct the activities in support of the Contras that you have described in your testimony yesterday?

In effect, he did, but not through a finding. A finding was not required ... The President, in effect, wanted the NSC staff to make sure that the Contras remained alive until we could return the vote in the Congress and return to a programme that was supported with appropriated funds.

Was there an oral designation by the President of the

From Michael Binyon Washington

Admiral John Poindexter said yesterday he did not believe, as National Security Adviser, that the Boland Amendment, prohibiting United States government aid to the Nicaraguan Contras, applied to the National Security Council.

He said he believed the efforts by the NSC staff to help the Contras while there was a ban on aid was therefore legal. But he insisted that they complied with the letter and spirit of the amendment.

"The only thing I admit to is withholding information from Congress," he said in his second day of testimony. "I have not said that we weren't helping the Contras. We clearly were helping the Contras." But he tried very hard to keep within the law by keeping the other departments covered by Boland out of the operation.

He therefore tried to ensure that the NSC alone supported the Contras, without the help of the CIA. Mr Reagan understood that, and also believed all along that Boland did not apply to his staff. He informed the President generally that White House aides were helping the Contras, but never went into details about who was doing what.

Nor did he tell Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, that they were helping the Contras. Asked whether Mr Meese had specifically told him the amendment did not

Gambling Admiral who took the sting from the scandal

Now that they have found the treasure, will the hunt still go on? Admiral John Poindexter has answered the one question that became over seven months, the kernel of the whole Iran-Contra affair: did President Reagan himself authorize the diversion of funds to the Contras?

The former National Security Adviser's answer, hidden for so long behind his wise, bland face while feverish speculation lapped round the door of the Oval Office, has come as both a relief and a bombshell to America. It immediately ends whatever threat there was of impeachment. It removes the central drama from the hearings, which may now taper off into bickering and bathos. But its implications have disturbed Republicans and Democrats alike, and will leave a lasting stain on the Reagan presidency.

President Truman's famous maxim, "the buck stops here", has become a popular definition of presidential responsibility. Indeed on coming to office Mr Reagan's predecessor, President Carter, ostentatiously got out the old plaque and



Mrs Linda Poindexter, an ordained Episcopalian minister, listening to her husband's testimony, left, while Rear-Admiral John Poindexter and his lawyer, Mr Richard Beckler, right, confer at the Iran-Contra hearings.

apply to the NSC, he said he could not remember, but he could also not recall any specific instruction that it did. He seldom referred any issues to the White House lawyer.

This question is central to any criminal investigation of the affair. If Admiral Poi-

The Iran-Contra hearing

Poindexter kept Congress in dark



and complained that "the long arm of the independent counsel has reached down into the core of this committee". That brought a soft-spoken but firm rebuttal from Representative Lee Hamilton, the chairman of the House investigating committee, who called the

assertion "totally and absolutely false". He said it was most disturbing and he rejected it categorically.

Mr Hamilton said the congressional investigators, who have granted Admiral Poindexter immunity on his

testimony, had conferred with Mr Lawrence Walsh, the independent prosecutor, only as required by statute.

Admiral Poindexter's fuzzy memory of his conversations with Mr Reagan about the Contras came after his disclosure on Wednesday that he had deliberately insulated the President from political embarrassment by not telling him about the diversion of funds to the Contras.

He said yesterday he thought the media blew this out of all proportion last November. He realized that it was in response to the outcry that an independent prosecutor was appointed.

He testified that with hindsight he would not have resigned when he did on November 25. He realized mistakes had been made, but thought the Administration moved too fast, and he should have remained as National Security Adviser while the full explanation came out.

Admiral Poindexter said he had accepted responsibility for the operation, and realized that if it ever became public he would have to leave. But "I was not a party to any plan to make Colonel North, or indeed me, a scapegoat".

He had never asked Colonel North how much money they were getting for the Contras from the Iran arms sales. "I simply didn't get into that detail of micro-management of the project that Colonel North was working on ... That was not my style," he said.

North had never asked Colonel North how much money they were getting for the Contras from the Iran arms sales. "I simply didn't get into that detail of micro-management of the project that Colonel North was working on ... That was not my style," he said.

There are still more witnesses to come — the main Cabinet officers such as Shultz, Weinberger and Meese have not spoken yet. But somehow the sting has gone from the scandal. There may be more in the details that fill in the picture of the state of government in the Reagan Administration.

But the President himself cannot be further damaged. And a popular feeling may soon make itself felt that enough is enough. The hearings uncovered all that they can, and it is time for Congress to get on with the rest of its business.

Michael Binyon



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1. If your family is quarrelling about which TV channel to watch, you:
- Go upstairs and read.
 - Argue vehemently for your choice.
 - Suggest everyone chips in 50p a week towards a video.

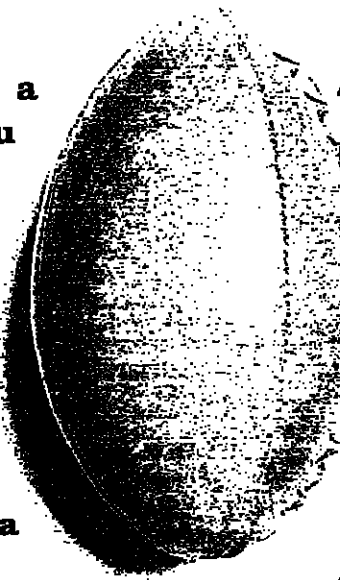


2. Faced with the prospect of your daily run with friends the morning after a binge, would you:

- Forget it and lie in?
- Lie in but pledge to run twice as long the next day?
- Curse loudly but get up and run?

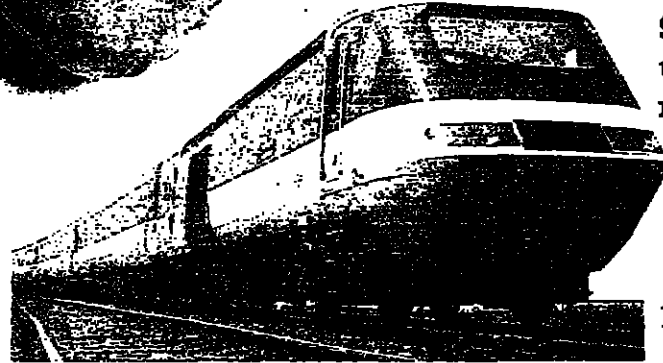
3. On a walking holiday one of your friends dislocates an ankle, you:

- Try to reset it.
- Carry him between you.
- Make him comfortable while you ask the fastest runner to go for a doctor.



4. You're dropped from the team in favour of an inferior player, you:

- Tell the coach to stuff it.
- Try to convince other team members the coach is useless.
- Impress him so much in training he has to pick you.

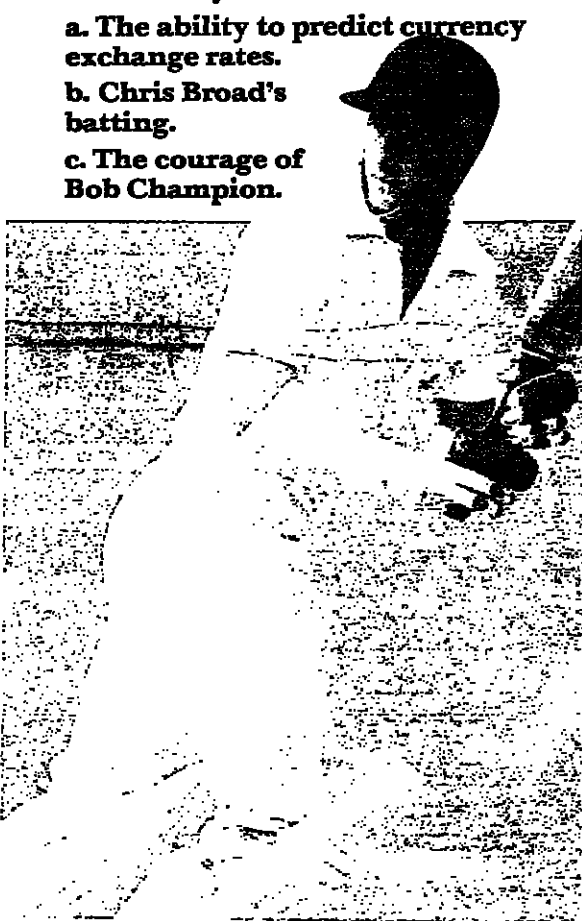


5. The prospect of commuting every day is:

- The price you pay for a settled life.
- A chance to do a bit of reading.
- Appalling.

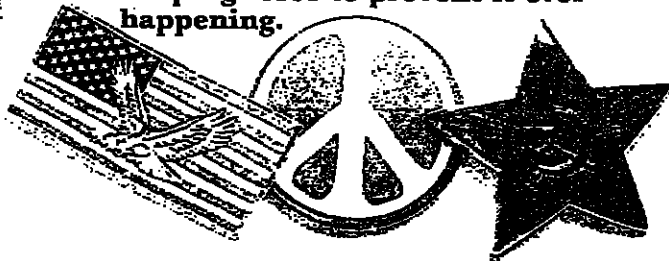
6. Which do you find most enviable:

- The ability to predict currency exchange rates.
- Chris Broad's batting.
- The courage of Bob Champion.



7. The threat of nuclear war prompts you:

- To join CND protests outside the American Embassy.
- To write stiff letters to the Russians.
- Spend part of your life in a peace-keeping force to prevent it ever happening.



8. One day you will:

- Buy up Richard Branson.
- Have supper with Linda Lusardi.
- Organise voluntary work in the Third World.

(Notes b and c are not mutually exclusive.)



Donor Card

9. Realising that many people need organ transplants, you:

- Think the whole idea's macabre.
- Have delayed a decision.
- Become a donor and carry a card to prove it.

10. You run a small pop group but no one will give you a booking, you:

- Disband.
- Try 6 more phone calls.
- Find your own venue.

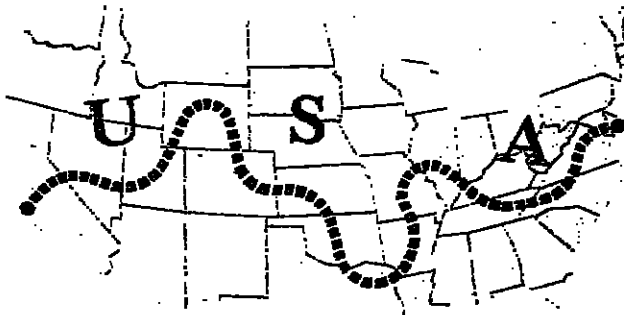
11. As a prefect, you always make sure your boys:

- Know who's boss.
- Obey the school rules.
- Are treated like responsible human-beings.

PREFECT

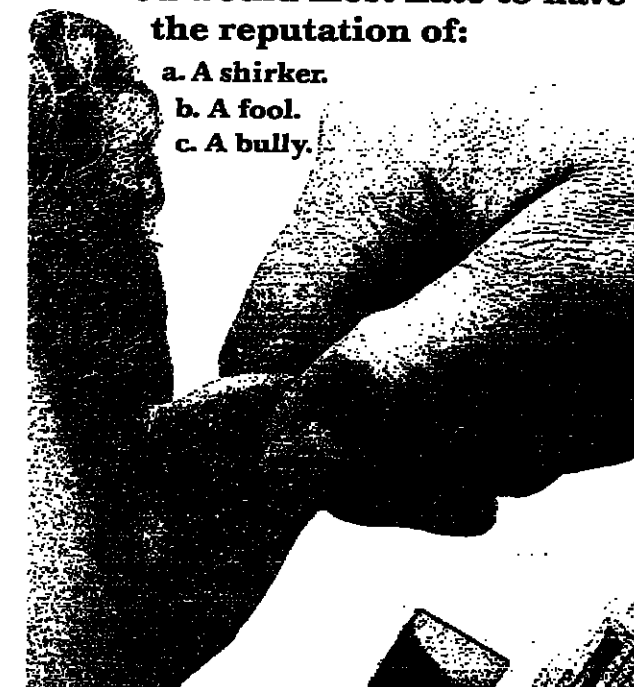
12. An ideal holiday for you would be:

- Dozing on the beach at Corfu.
- Joining a package tour to Morocco.
- Working your way across America.



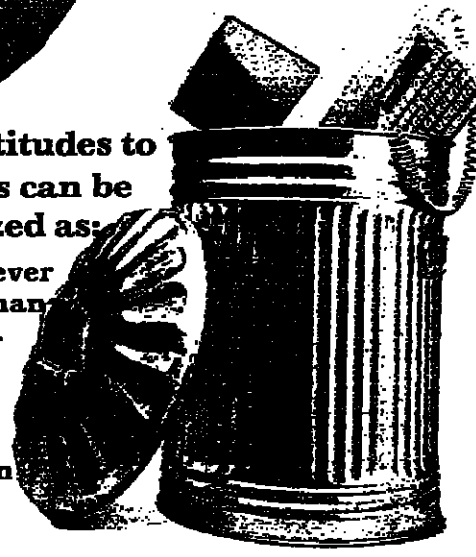
13. You would most hate to have the reputation of:

- A shirker.
- A fool.
- A bully.



14. Your attitudes to computers can be summarized as:

- They'll never replace human intelligence.
- Help!
- It's a language you have to learn these days.



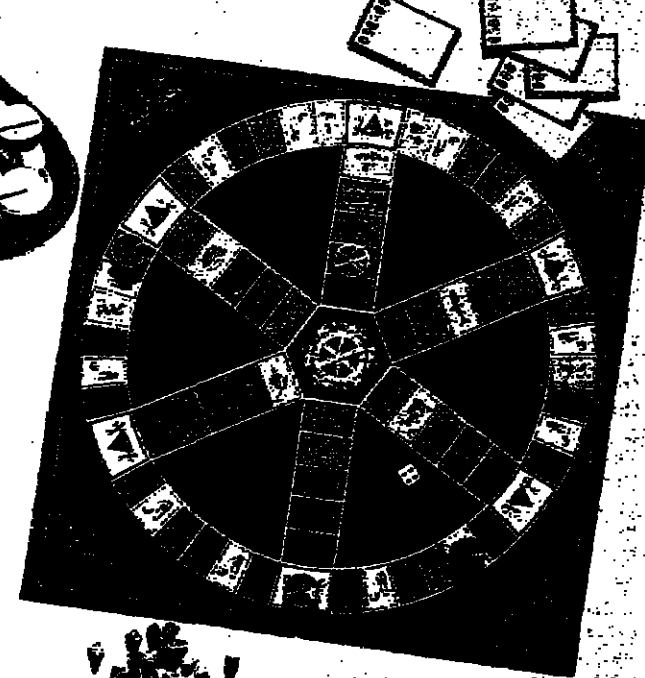
15. You accidentally damage a parked car, you:

- Thank God no one saw you.
- Clear off quickly.
- Leave an apology and your name and address under his wind-screen wiper.



16. At a party someone suggests charades which you hate, you:

- Say you'd prefer Trivial Pursuits.
- Take part reluctantly.
- Try to enthuse your team with original ideas.



17. You realise that a natural leader would probably choose answer 'c' in most cases, you:

- Think 'what a wimp!'
- Consider a safe job in insurance is more your line.
- Think you may have leadership potential but realise it doesn't make you better, only different.

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Low profile for European polls

Only half an eye on Strasbourg voting

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

When Portugal's 8 million voters go to the polls on Sunday they will have two ballot papers — one for their national MPs, the other directly to elect 24 Euro-MPs for the first time.

But party opinion polls say that 40 per cent of the voters in what is the EEC's poorest country are not aware of the European Parliamentary elections.

To try to overcome this problem, campaign managers adopted two courses: fielding

will be very remote, each requiring some 240,000 votes.

Party managers admit that television is the main vehicle for the European contest. But audience ratings for the separate time allotted by Portugal's state television in addition to party political broadcasts in the national contest have not been encouraging.

Portugal's ruling Social Democrat party does use the symbols of European unity with the slogan, "For a more prosperous Portugal, for a stronger Europe". But Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva, the party leader and acting Prime Minister, concentrates monotonously on his domestic campaign themes.

Making one of his party's last allotted European campaign appearances, he devoted only one sentence to urging the voters to send "the same team" to Strasbourg as to the Portuguese Parliament. The head of the Social Democrat party list for Strasbourg did not even get in the broadcast.

Some Euro-MP candidates have held discussion groups and meetings in urban centres, but it has been possible to travel for miles on central Portugal's roads and not spot a sign of the Strasbourg contest. With a single nation-wide constituency, the Euro-MPs

With Dr Mario Soares already in the presidency, the Socialist Party, which is led by Senhor Vitor Constancio, chose Senhora Maria Pintasilgo — a former Prime Minister and presidential candidate — to head its list. But, even though she is a left-wing Catholic, she is remembered



Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva, the acting Prime Minister, left, and the Socialist Party leader Senhor Vitor Constancio.

as a one-time opponent of Portugal joining the EEC.

The Socialists won their battle for a personality, taking her from General Eanes Democratic Renewal Party, which had also wanted her.

Senhor Francisco Lucas Pires, head of the list for the right wing Christian Democrats, is the only exception among the 14 parties fighting

the Strasbourg campaign, better known than his own party's national leadership.

As a former Vice-President of the Strasbourg Parliament, his campaign stresses how the EEC structural and regional funds can help Portugal build its infrastructure and modernize its backward agriculture. He also campaigns, however, as if it were a presidential

contest, hoping to pick up non-party votes as well.

Portugal's Communist Party, presenting itself this time under a new label, the United Democratic Coalition, plays as its best card its opposition to Portugal ever joining the EEC. But there has been a shift of emphasis, and it's election promise now "To defend Portugal" sounds not much

different from the nationalist line taken by most other parties.

The EEC Finance Minister's decision this week in Brussels not to let off Portugal and Spain from paying their contributions to the "butter mountain" helped the Communists underline how Portugal is not receiving promised favoured treatment.

Ministries to be merged

Hawke cuts costs in big shake-up

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

In the first important initiative of his third term as Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke is due to announce his Cabinet next week within a new administrative framework aimed at reducing public service expenditure by \$Aus 96 million (£41 million) annually.

This extensive government reorganization will bring the Canberra system closer to the Westminster model. The 27 ministries will be restructured into 16 senior portfolios and 14 assistant ministers.

At a time when the Government is urging Australians to tighten their belts, Mr Hawke described the package as "an appropriate example" by the country's largest single employer. But he said there would be no dismissals and job losses would be through natural wastage.

The full extent of Labor's victory has now become apparent. With the results in from all but one of the 148 seats in the House of Representatives, Mr Hawke's majority will probably be 25 or 26. The one electorate where counting is continuing is Chisholm, Victoria, where the Liberals are hoping to cling on by the smallest of margins.

The administrative shake-up, and increased overall number of 30 ministers gives

Mr Hawke a greater degree of flexibility in settling the factional wrangle that has broken out between the left and right wings of the Labor Party since the election.

The right, which was crucial to the organization behind the election success, and with which Mr Hawke is associated, is demanding more Cabinet representation. The first casualty of the power struggle is likely to be Mr Barry Cohen, former Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment.

One area of change will be the Department of Foreign Affairs, which will be expanded to incorporate trade, although the Minister is likely to remain Mr Bill Hayden.

The education and employment portfolios are also to be merged, as are primary industry and energy. Aboriginal affairs, health and community services will all be combined.

The power struggle over the leadership of the Liberal Party will be resolved today when the parliamentary party makes a choice between Mr John Howard and Mr Andrew Peacock.

Mr Howard's supporters remain confident he will retain the leadership, but Mr Peacock insisted yesterday that he had the numbers to regain the job he lost in September 1985.

Burgundy tastes a French version of Glyndebourne

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Friends of M Jean de Menton say he is quite mad, and he agrees. "Yes, I'm mad," he says with a bright smile, "but perhaps in the end it's only madmen who realize their wildest dreams."

The dream of M de Menton, a civil servant in the French Ministry of Industry and an ardent Anglophile, was to buy a beautiful chateau and recreate there a French version of Glyndebourne with, for good measure, a touch of his two other great loves: horses and Ascot.

The first part of the dream was realized in 1980, when, for 10 million francs (£1,250,000), he bought the Chateau d'Ancy-le-Franc, one of the finest examples in the country of 16th-century Renaissance architecture. It is the falling growth of the garden, just 100 metres from the 130 miles south of Paris.

The second part of the dream began this week when M de Menton launched a six-week festival of Baroque opera, music and theatre at the chateau at a cost of 2.4 million francs, nearly all from his own pocket, though the Ministry of Culture has donated 200,000 francs.

The whole venture, involving 26 performances, most of them by British groups such as Opera Restor'd, the Eton College Choir and the Parley of Instruments, has been mounted in just six months.

Organization is not M de Menton's strong point, and his helpers, most of whom are volunteers, have been plagued throughout by an atmosphere of happy-go-lucky administrative chaos. There is, for example, still only one toilet available for the public.

But somehow the show goes on and, although not yet up to

Glyndebourne standards, it is a perfect delight. On the night I went, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (1689) followed by J.F. Lampe's comic opera *Pyramus and Thisbe* (1745) were performed by Opera Restor'd in the 16th-century setting of the chateau, which was designed in 1546 by Sebastien Serlio, one of the architects to King Francis I.

If being the highest of the high, the men were asked to wear black and the women long dresses. M de Menton longed for the Glyndebourne style, but the general public is to follow such eccentric British customs on normal nights.

It was a task for the night in the chateau. The national television channel didn't think it was worth airing the show, so M de Menton had to be satisfied with the 300 people who came.

Do not be discouraged, while painted have been specially imported from Britain for those who want a little gentle exercise on the lake at the far end of the chateau's tree-lined lawn — again, not quite the beauty of the Glyndebourne gardens, but a beginning which, like much else, M de Menton means to work on.

The main performances, opera or theatre, are scheduled to begin at 8pm, but usually do not start until around 8.30. Prices vary from 200 to 500 francs a seat. That includes a free tour of the chateau and its grounds. Shorter, purely musical entertainment, is available at 5pm.

At the moment, only about 100 to 150 people are turning up, though the courtyard could easily take 600 or more. M de Menton is nevertheless delighted. "That's very good," he says, "considering we've virtually had no publicity."



The Chateau d'Ancy-le-Franc, nestling in the green-gold Burgundy countryside where a wild dream is coming true.

South Africa launches new security network

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A nationwide network of security committees comprising members of the armed forces and representatives of local authorities and the business community has been launched in South Africa.

Their formation is seen as a further indication of the increasing role being taken by the South African Defence Force in civilian affairs.

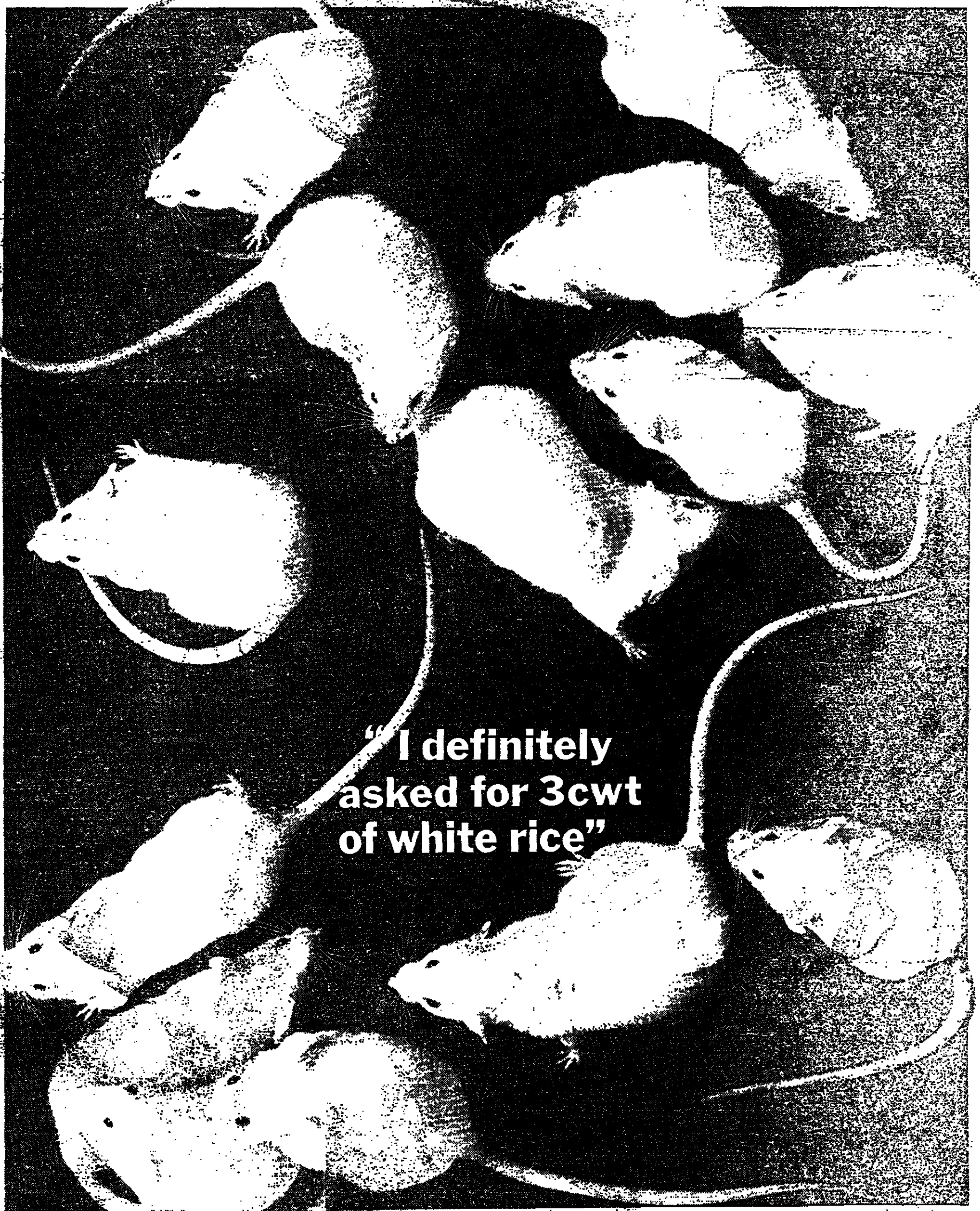
The committees, called Defence Manpower Liaison Committees, will complement an existing military-dominated network of Joint Management Centres. It was reported yesterday.

Their function will be to discuss with the military at local level military call-up needs and the effects of black

township unrest and work stoppages.

Eight provincial committees were formed in 1985 and a series of local-level committees earlier this year. A Johannesburg committee was established in May and consists of council representatives, members of chambers of commerce and of Commando (Territorial Army) units.

The chairman, Colonel Chris du Toit, who represents the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, says it is also planned to involve union members and industrial relations consultants because of the concern about work stoppages — mass work stoppages called by radical black organizations.



"I definitely asked for 3cwt of white rice"

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Red carpet but caution for Honecker's visit to Bonn

From John England, Bonn

Almost two months ahead of a long-delayed visit to West Germany by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, the Government in Bonn was yesterday treating the event like a piece of Dresden china.

Herr Honecker's visit — from September 7 to 11, announced in a surprise and premature statement from the Bonn Chancellery on Wednesday night — will include two days of top-level talks in Bonn. But Herr Wolfgang Schäuble, the Chancellery Minister, yesterday warned West Germans not to expect too much from the visit, and told journalists to be "very careful" with their comments ahead of it.

"The Government expects concrete results for German-German relations," he said at a press conference. "But hopes should not be set too high."

He added, however, that the time was right for the visit against a background of improvements in East-West relations, and especially with East Germany this year expected to allow about one

million East Germans to visit relatives in West Germany, compared with more than 570,000 such visits in 1986.

Herr Honecker, aged 74, was born the son of a communist miner in the small town of Wiebelskirchen, now in the West German state of Saarland, and went underground when the Nazis came to power in 1933. Arrested by the Gestapo, he was jailed for 10 years, and liberated from Brandenburg prison by Soviet troops just before the end of the war.

He took over from Herr Walter Ulbricht as East Germany's Communist Party leader in 1971, signed a basic agreement with Bonn which "normalized" East-West German relations in 1972, and assumed the title of Head of State in 1976.

Herr Honecker was originally invited to West Germany by former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in 1981. He was to have come here in 1983 and then in 1984, but the visits were cancelled because of disagreements between Bonn

and East Berlin and disapproval by Moscow.

Herr Schäuble said the new visit plans had been finalized on April 1, long before West German President von Weizsäcker's state visit to the Soviet Union last week. It is believed, however, that Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, finally gave Mr Honecker the green light during the visit, although Herr Schäuble refused to comment.

The visit was to have been announced on July 22, after Chancellor Kohl's return from his visit to China and Tibet, but it was thought that news would leak before then, so Bonn and East Berlin had agreed to announce it simultaneously on Wednesday.

Bonn's description of Herr Honecker's visit contains some fine and tortuous points of protocol inspired by the delicacy of relations between the two Germanies and their differing views of East Germany's status as a nation.

Officially, Herr Honecker will be coming on a working visit at the invitation of Chancellor Kohl, and there-

fore will not be making a state visit, for which he would have to be invited by President von Weizsäcker.

But, because Herr Honecker is also the head of his state as well as the leader of its Communist Party, he will be accorded all the pomp and circumstance protocol associated with a state visit.

This will include a red carpet welcome at the Bonn Chancellery, a guard of honour and a military band, which will play both German national anthems.

Herr Honecker will also be received by Herr von Weizsäcker during his stay in Bonn, which will include the signing of a bilateral co-operation agreement on the environment and other accords on joint work in the scientific-technical and nuclear energy fields.

● Another escape: In the second escape to West Germany by an East German in a light plane in two days, a man aged 35 yesterday landed a crop-dusting aircraft safely in Bavaria.

Leading article, page 15

Peace puts Peres in electoral dilemma

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Foreign Minister and chief advocate of an international peace conference on the Middle East, will on Wednesday be given the opportunity he has long sought to pull down the national coalition Government and go for early elections.

But the paradox of Israeli politics is such that, while the best chance for the conference being called could lie in the outcome of Mrs Thatcher's current visit to Washington, he may yet decide to continue to support the Government he himself has described as meaningless.

This is because the opportunity he has longed for is being provided by the

extreme right-wing Tehiya Party, which is among his most implacable enemies in opposing his plan to negotiate land for peace with the Arabs.

The party's five members have been told by its secretariat to put down a motion on Wednesday calling for early elections on the grounds that the Government has failed to provide assurances — or money — that more settlements will be built in the occupied territories.

Mrs Geula Cohen, the party's most vociferous member of the Knesset, said: "I, who believe that early elections will promote the cause of the international conference, have nothing to say to make the central committee decide otherwise than to press for early elections."

The five votes, added to the 58 that Mr Peres and his Labour Alignment supporters can rely on, are enough to win an overall Knesset majority. But so dangerous does this unholy alliance seem to Mapam, the dovish left-wing of the Alignment, that its six members have already decided they will not join it.

Mr Peres, too, is hesitating, not least because opinion polls show that his personal support has slipped to its lowest ebb since the 1984 elections. Support for an international peace conference is a potential vote-loser. If elections come soon, Mr Peres is far from certain of winning the overall majority he needs to make backing the conference official Israeli policy. In fact he risks again ending up in opposition.

Big win for Gandhi's man



Mr. Venkataraman, the candidate of the ruling Congress (I) party, posing in ceremonial dress at his home after being elected India's eighth President by a big margin last night.

The final results from the electoral college gave Mr Venkataraman 740,148 votes against 281,550 for Mr Krishna Iyer, the Opposition's candidate, while Dr Mithilesh Sinha, an independent, polled 2,223 votes (Gavin Bell writes from Delhi).

Mr Venkataraman will be sworn in on July 25 at the end of the five-year term of President Zail Singh.

The outcome of the election seems certain to consolidate the authority of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister,

who moved to end dissent in the Congress (I) party earlier this week by expelling three former ministers.

Relations between Mr Gandhi and President Singh had been strained by public disputes, notably over the President's right of access to information on issues of state. The Opposition and Congress dissidents had urged the President to stand for re-election as an independent, but he could not raise enough support for a second term and opted for retirement.

Mr Venkataraman, aged 76, previously the Vice-President, appears to be a safer bet for Mr Gandhi, but he declined after his election to answer questions about relations with the Prime Minister and about

his presidential responsibilities. Asked what he expected from the presidency, he said: "It is for the people to judge." Mr Gandhi said the outcome of the election demonstrated that his party was "intact and united".

Mr Venkataraman, a stalwart of India's struggle for independence, is a former barrister and trade union activist who entered politics in the early 1930s. Before becoming Vice-President three years ago, he was successively Finance Minister and Minister of Defence under Mrs Indira Gandhi. His only problem appears to be Hindi, the national language, which he admits he cannot speak fluently. His native tongue is Tamil, widely spoken in southern India.

Killer asks to serve sentence in Britain

An unemployed Briton, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the Larnaca marina killings of three Israelis, has asked Cypriot authorities if he can serve his sentence in Britain (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Ian Davison, aged 28, from South Shields, approached the Cypriot Justice Ministry earlier this year to apply for the transfer. A decision is expected in a few weeks.

Davison and two Palestinians, who belonged to an elite wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization, were convicted of murdering three Israelis on a yacht in 1985. They claimed the victims were Israeli agents, but Israel said they were innocent civilians.

Hanoi hope

Bangkok (Reuters) — Hanoi will allow Americans to resume interviewing Vietnamese applicants for legal emigration to the US after an 18-month break.

Ban lifted

Taipei (Reuters) — Taiwan, in the latest of a series of liberalization moves, has lifted an eight-year ban on tourists travelling directly to Hong Kong and Macao.

Sea rescue

Dhaka — Seven Sri Lankan fishermen drifting in a trawler for a month were rescued by islanders about 10 miles off the Bangladesh coast.

Helmets work

Rome (Reuters) — The number of motorcyclists dying in road accidents in Italy has fallen by about 30 per cent since a law making crash helmets compulsory was introduced a year ago, but sales of motorcycles have fallen by more than 35 per cent in the same period.

Moscow berates Kazakhs

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The authorities in Moscow have vehemently attacked the former leadership of the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan and have revealed that the riots which broke out in Alma-Ata, the Kazakh capital, in December were not the first nationalist disturbances to affect the republic.

A resolution of the Communist Party Central Committee published on the front page of Pravda yesterday said there had been serious nationalist riots in the city of Tselinograd in 1979, but the republic's party leadership had not taken action to ensure

there was no repetition. When Kazakh students rioted in Alma-Ata in December, buildings were set on fire, shops looted, and a Russian militia man killed. One student has been sentenced to death for the murder.

The riots came after the appointment of Mr Gennady Kolbin, a Russian, to replace the ethnic Kazakh, Mr Dinmukhammed Kunayev, as party leader in the republic. Mr Kunayev, who was dropped from the Politburo at last month's Central Committee meeting, is now being blamed for allowing the chaotic political and economic situation in the republic to develop.

Yesterday's resolution says that Mr Kunayev was guilty of flouting the norms and principles of party leadership, and describes his style of leadership as "subjective", accusing him of disregarding the collegiate principle, and of allowing corruption and "flunkeyism" to flourish. The result, the resolution says, was that decisions were taken by a very small group of people who abused their positions for nefarious ends.

The resolution calls for a thorough overhaul of all party, government and educational institutions in the republic where, it says, nepotism and corruption have been rife.

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Paraguay stage set for open and bitter fight to pick leader

Next to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Asunción's Pantheon, a small replica of Les Invalides in Paris, lies the body of General Bernardino Caballero.

The general's remains merit their special place of honour not because he played any particularly brilliant role in Paraguayan history, but because he founded the Colorado Party which has supported President Stroessner's dictatorship for 33 years.

But, as the party prepares to celebrate its centenary and nominate General Stroessner for a seventh consecutive five-year term as President in elections scheduled for February, its leaders are waging an open and bitter fight that is seen here as the first indication that the President may be losing his grip on a party he has dominated since coming to power in a coup in 1954.

The battle between the party's militant and traditionalist wings has intensified in recent weeks in the lead-up to the party's August convention, at which a new party leadership will be elected. At issue is the jockeying for control after General Stroessner, who is aged 74, has gone. Although both groups claim to support the President, the traditionalists, representing Paraguay's old political families, are eager to ensure their faction's survival by reasserting its independence from him.

"The traditionalists see the end of the regime and don't want the Colorado Party to go to the grave with Stroessner," said Señor Aldo Zucolillo, the

From Eduardo Cué, Asunción publisher of *ABC Color*, Paraguay's most prestigious newspaper, which was closed by the Government three years ago.

To ensure their political survival, the traditionalists appear willing to move towards a limited liberalization of the regime by legalizing the country's main opposition parties, reducing the widespread corruption within the Government, and eventually nominating a civilian candidate for the presidency.

The Colorado Party is a

In typical fashion the President is remaining silent

well-oiled political machine, which, in the unanimous view of political observers here, would easily win a free election, attracting up to 70 per cent of the vote.

Despite the party's clear domination of Paraguayan politics, however, the militant faction, made up mostly of young men who owe their wealth and power to General Stroessner, wants to ensure that the present system continues intact.

Led by a "Gang of Four" — three Cabinet ministers and the President's personal secretary — the militants are waging a hard battle to gain control of the party apparatus. They have nominated Dr Sabino Augusto Montanaro, the Interior Minister, as their candidate for party president against Dr Juan Ramón Chávez, the 84-year-old traditionalist incumbent.

In typical fashion, General Stroessner has remained silent about the power struggle, but he is widely thought to be backing the militants, whose main worry would appear to be his obstinate refusal to name a successor.

"No one has been chosen to succeed General Stroessner, but an organized party exists and it will decide from among the many candidates who will be the next president," said Señor Martín Chiola, a national deputy who belongs to the militant wing and is said to be close to the President.

The military has remained publicly silent about the split within the Colorado Party. But the country's senior officers are known to be concerned about Paraguay's deteriorating international image and they are eager to assert the institutional independence of the armed forces from the ruling party.

"The military in general continues to remain quite loyal to Stroessner while at the same time largely identifying with the traditionalist rather than the militant faction," said one foreign analyst. "The big question is how much influence do they have over Stroessner?"

A third faction within the Colorado Party is calling for an end to the Stroessner era and is likely to break from the party altogether. Señor Carlos Romero Pereira, their leader, says: "There is no law in this country (saying) if you have a problem with Stroessner, you're finished. We want to bring morality back to the party and the country."

Tears of grief as flood death toll rises



A grieving woman is helped by French Red Cross workers after identifying a victim of the flash flood and mudslides that demolished a camp site at Grand Bornand.

Typhoon kills 53 in Korea

Seoul (AP) — More than 100,000 rescue workers yesterday searched for victims after typhoon Thelma swept across the southern coast of South Korea with 80mph winds, leaving 53 people dead and at least 81 missing and feared dead.

The Home Ministry said the toll was expected to rise. The wind and torrential rains triggered landslides and sent rivers raging over their banks, destroying hundreds of buildings. Some 7,300 people were left homeless.

"We think the number of casualties and property damage may increase as communications are restored in remote areas," said a rescue

official in Kwangju, 165 miles south of Seoul.

Only 23 people were reported injured. Officials said most of the casualties were caught in landslips that flattened houses and left no survivors. They said 110,000 rescue workers, including thousands of military reservists, had been mobilized to hunt for survivors and repair damaged roads, waterways and buildings.

The storm, downgraded to a tropical depression after it moved into the Sea of Japan, sank or damaged more than 30 ships at sea, officials said. Rescue boats were hunting for survivors. Up to 64 seamen and fishermen were missing.

including 23 from a large fishing vessel that capsized off the southern port of Pusan.

PEKING: Rainstorms and floods have killed 42 people and devastated farmland around the Yangtze river in Hubei Province, central China, the New China news agency said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Up to 16 inches of rain fell in the province earlier this month, washing away more than 500 bridges and swamping two million acres of farmland, the agency said.

It said 120 people were injured, more than 33,000 homes damaged and 1,400 river dikes smashed. About 2.5 million people had been involved in rescue operations.

£14bn suit is filed against Marcos

Manila (AP) — The Philippines Government yesterday filed a £14 billion damage suit accusing the deposed President Marcos and his family of plundering the nation during two decades of corrupt rule.

Mr Ramon Diaz, chairman of a commission tracking down the deposed president's "hidden wealth", said that criminal charges against Mr Marcos were also being prepared.

The civil suit accuses the Marcoses of "breach of public trust" and "abuse of right and power" in their "plunder of the nation's wealth" through "theft of public funds... extortion, bribery, embezzlement and other acts of corruption".

Most of the money is allegedly stashed away in secret Swiss bank accounts, and in investments in the United States and elsewhere.

Muslims offer: The Philippines Government has offered Muslim separatists limited autonomy over much of the south in a "take it or leave it" measure aimed at defusing continued threats of war (Reuters reports).

Muslim leaders said that they were studying a draft executive order which would establish self-rule for 10 southern provinces within two weeks. An order giving some autonomy to tribesmen in the north was signed yesterday.

Agulian vow: President Aquino promised in Naga City in Camarines Sur province, a region heavily penetrated by communist rebels, to bring "permanent peace" to the Philippines before her term ends in 1992, and denounced "the continuing fascist attempts to destroy our freedom" (Reuters reports).

Corruption in Mexico

The 'bite' returns to city streets

From Charles Bremner, Mexico City Residents of the Mexico City district of Colonia del Valle have organized a campaign against what they see as an imminent threat to public safety. The source of their alarm is not new underworld activity, but plans to move the headquarters of the city prosecutor's office to their district.

"They're just a bunch of monkeys with guns," said one woman resident, voicing a widespread view that some of the city's police and law officers are as crooked as the criminals they are supposed to catch.

The citizens' action was a scant compliment to the efforts of President de la Madrid, who five years ago tried to purge corrupt officials and get to grips with the graft and pay-offs that have been part of Mexican life since the days of the Aztecs and the Spanish Empire.

Mexican presidents have for years been promising crack-downs on the practice of *la mordida* — "the bite", as the traditional pay-off is called — at the start of their six-year terms, with little success.

Señor de la Madrid promised "moral renovation" when he took office in 1982 and ordered the arrest of two leading figures from the era of his predecessor, Señor José López Portillo. That Administration was reputed to have had more officials on the take than any other in recent memory.

The most popular arrest was that of Arturo Durazo, who built a fierce and dark reputation as Mexico City's police chief from 1976 to 1982. Though he earned about £40 a week, he owned mansions and lived like a millionaire. He is now serving 10 years in prison.

The other arrest, of Jorge Díaz Serrano, the former head of the state-owned oil company Pemex, was an attempt to clean up the administration of the country's most vital industry. He is still defending himself on charges of defrauding the company of around £20 million.

The Government has also brought in laws to rein in the powerful oil workers' union,

said to have been siphoning public funds into its coffers.

The most visible sign of President de la Madrid's drive are the notices at the airport reminding passengers that public servants are barred from receiving "gifts or gratuities". One old custom the signs are aimed at is the practice of including a few dollars in the passport to ensure a duty-free return after a foreign shopping trip.

Now, local commentators and diplomats say, the clean-up campaign has succumbed to the pressure of the old system under which gifts and "considerations" are a necessary part of life for underpaid public servants. One foreign diplomat with long experience in the country said: "The policemen stopped taking bribes for a while, but things are back to normal."

The President has reportedly ordered the sacking of about 150 customs officers on the border with Texas. The Mexican Consul in Houston, Señor Hernando Lopez-Bassols, said: "They were certain people who got illegal money and sometimes illegally confiscated personal belongings of people."

Local commentators see little future for the anti-corruption drive, now that Señor de la Madrid is in his lame-duck period before he hands over to his successor — whom he will choose himself. Many blame what amounts to the country's single-party system for the rampant graft. The Institutional Revolutionary Party has held power for almost six decades, dominating political life and facing no challenge from plausible opposition.

Continuing official abuses have inflicted diplomatic damage in one important field: relations with the United States. The Americans are upset that Mexico has not done enough to get to grips with the drug trafficking that is helped by crooked police officers. Mexican officials point to progress, and cite the number of the country's officers who have been killed trying to halt the drug flow north of the border.

Karachi counts its dead as police hunt suspects

From Zahid Hussain, Karachi

The death toll from Tuesday's bomb blasts in the centre of Karachi could rise much higher than the 73 dead already recorded, reports indicate. More than 200 were injured and 130 of them are still on the critical list. At least 20 people are still reported missing.

While the entire country joined Karachi in its mourning, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister, arrived in the city yesterday after cutting short his visit to Japan and South Korea. He is expected to hold meetings with the provincial government and officials on the recent incidents of terrorism.

A report in the Karachi English language daily *Dawn*, said that the police are looking for three suspects.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan yesterday denied that it had attempted to import a special kind of steel from the United States for its nuclear programme in contravention of a US law (Hasan Akhtar writes).

A spokesman made the denial to refute press reports saying that a Canadian resident had allegedly sought to obtain a permit fraudulently to export a special type of steel to Pakistan for its nuclear facility and that he faced prosecution in a Pennsylvania court.

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 <p>Pack of 3 Boots Bath Soaps was 49p now 39p</p>	 <p>Dr. White's Press on Towels 20's Medium Mar. £1.09 Secrets 52p 95p</p>	 <p>Imperial Leather Family Twin Pack 2 x 200g 59p</p>		
 <p>Sunsilk Styling Mousse 200ml + Free 100ml Sunsilk Hairspray £1.75</p>	 <p>Ponds Cream and Cocoa Butter 300ml was £1.82 now £1.49</p>	 <p>Gillette Contour 10's + 2 Free Contour Plus Blades £2.09</p>	 <p>Rightguard Roll-On Twin Pack 2 x 40ml 99p</p>	

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An airline to beat the world

The merger of Britain's two main airlines will provide "a route network unrivalled in the world" according to British Caledonian's Adam Thomson (below left). But for him it means defeat after a long battle with BA's Lord King (below right).



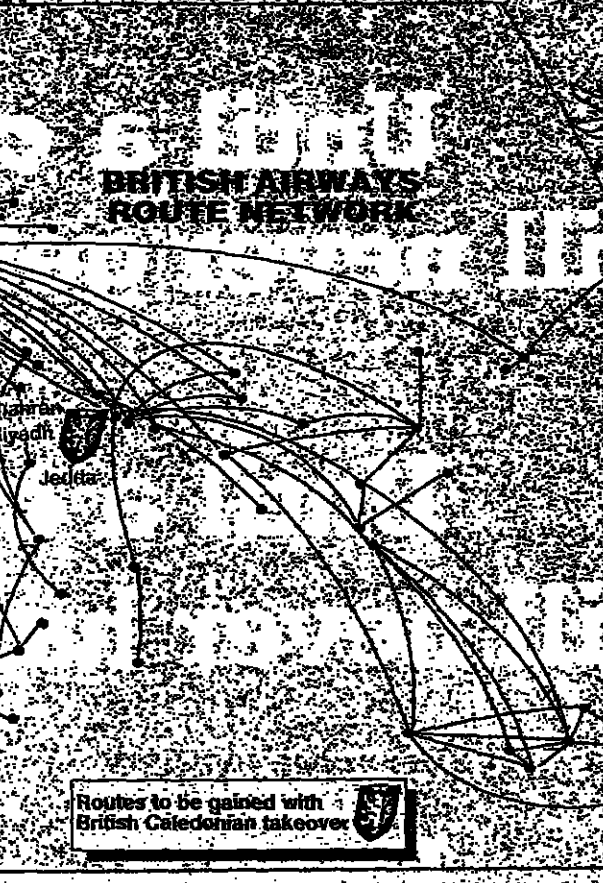
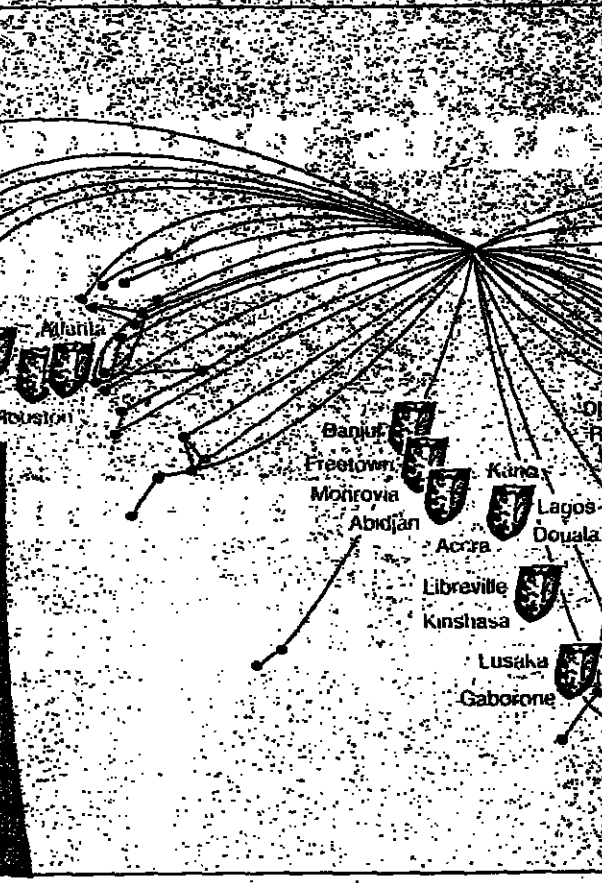
Pilot who turned a dream into reality

The dream lasted just 26 years. Every hour of Adam Thomson's working life since 1961 had been spent battling the might and power of "the world's favourite airline" in the sure conviction that the travelling public needed a choice of British airline on which to fly.

Then, almost imperceptibly, the which finally ended yesterday with the formal announcement that British Caledonian — the airline that was to have offered a real challenge to British Airways on the major air routes of the world — was ready to sell out to its arch-rival.

Sir Adam's decision to back the merger came as a shock to his loyal and dedicated staff. He had constantly laboured to instil in them the belief that their job was to offer an alternative to BA, and he had led the company in a style totally different from that of his chief rival, Lord King.

A quiet, intensely private man, Adam Thomson was born in a Glasgow suburb 61 years ago, and learnt his basic entrepreneurial



skills collecting broken glass and selling it from a barrow to bottle makers. He entered the Royal Navy in 1944 and quickly graduated to the Fleet Air Arm, with which he became a highly regarded pilot. His love of aviation and of flying took him into civil aviation operations with BEA, first as a flying instructor and then, from 1951 to 1959, as a pilot.

At the start of the 1960s the British airline industry was owned and regulated by the Government, which controlled it so tightly that there was no real competition. Fares were so ridiculously high that only a handful of people could afford them. So Adam Thomson dreamed of setting up his own airline to carry passengers on a charter basis. His aircraft would leave the runway only when they were full.

A chance meeting in Glasgow with like-minded former BEA steward John de la Haye, turned that dream into reality. Using borrowed capital of £54,000, they brought Caledonian Airways to life in November 1961 with just one propeller-driven DC7C, leased from Sabena.

The Atlantic seemed the perfect market for the operation and they quickly discovered a potentially vast cut-price market. The two men introduced genuinely low-cost transatlantic air travel years before Freddie Laker's name became known. Despite the early setback of a crash in West Africa in which more than 100 people died, by the end of the decade they had built their fleet up to a total of nine Boeing 707s, the most sophisticated jet in service. It was then that they spotted the opportunity

which was to transform the fledgling airline into a major international carrier.

The board of British United Airways was becoming increasingly disenchanted with continued union problems, obstructive governments and inflexible foreign competition. They were looking for a buyer. So, on St Andrew's Day 1970 — nine years to the day after the formation of Caledonian Airways — BUA was taken over and merged to form British Caledonian.

With Gatwick as its headquarters, the new airline went rapidly from strength to strength. The Labour Government recognized it as the "second force" to

provide competition with BA wherever it could, and the Conservatives later backed it to the hilt. But when BA suddenly began to shed its over-stuffed and cumbersome bureaucratic image in the early 1980s, the competition began to increase. The Government, already secretly planning the privatization of the state-owned giant, decided to hold a major review of British airline competition policy.

They decided finally that two large international carriers were essential. But they wanted B-Cal to have a fighting chance. So in 1984 they arranged a route swap. BA would give up Saudi Arabia to B-Cal, and in return B-Cal would

hand over its troubled South American routes to BA.

It may have seemed a good idea at the time. But within weeks several things happened. The oil boom went bust, stranding B-Cal with a route which almost disappeared overnight, but with sole rights to almost every trouble-spot on the globe. Dallas and Houston joined Saudi Arabia among the "ghost routes" of the oil business. Libya had to be closed down because of international terrorism. Nigeria presented untold financial problems with its out-of-control economy, and the whole of central and west Africa seemed to present a crisis area. Then, last year, the fear of terrorism and the Chernobyl accident led to a massive cut-back in the number of tourists crossing the Atlantic from the United States, and B-Cal's fate was effectively sealed.

In the meantime, South America became the fastest growing air route in the world. Lord King, whose manner had consistently given him the upper hand when Mrs Thatcher was refereeing his often heated arguments with Sir Adam, had triumphed.

The airline has made a comeback to a certain extent so far this year, opening new routes to Tokyo, Milan and Gabarone. But the real breakthrough it needed in Europe has been blocked by the continued chauvinism and protectionism of the Europeans. Reality and the harsh economics of the airline industry forced the rivals, however reluctantly, into each other's arms.

Harvey Elliott

Political operator who enjoys a fight

Had Lord King not been so determined to remain in command of the company cockpit, the chances are that he would now have switched his professional airwaves and become chairman of the BBC governors.

An unashamedly right-wing Tory, he was one of Mrs Thatcher's favourite candidates last year for the corporation chairmanship, although his appointment would hardly have been welcomed at Broadcasting House, where he was viewed as a potential hatchet man.

Lord King of Wartnaby, now 69 and created a life peer four years ago, stands squarely in the hunting, shooting and fishing tradition of British nobility, listing among his recreations in *Who's Who* as racing and field sports.

His style of leadership has at times been described as aggressive and autocratic, though this has not angered the employees of British Airways since he has grabbed as many opportunities as possible to expand the airline.

His rigid adherence to the ideals of competitiveness within a pri-

vate sector has given him a reputation of being a hard-nosed operator. He does not like to be out of control, and he is not a man who is easily outmanoeuvred.

"The one thing that the company has always been quick to react to is the service of customers, and on the other, the state of the world, to measure out the continuing needs of available resources."

Now married, to Rachel Wootton, daughter of the English Viscountess, Lord King is nothing if not a family man and a loyalist. In August 1985, having heard that one of the Queen Mother's most cherished wishes was to fly to Concordia, he arranged a round-Britain birthday trip for her in the company of her grandchildren.

A close business associate describes him in the following terms: "He is very tough but also very sociable. Behind that aggressive image there is a tremendous softness when he deals with individuals."

"He tends to personalize things, by which I mean that if he feels he has to do something unpleasant, like sacking employees, he takes it very much to heart, and certainly does not enjoy it one bit."

"He is a terrifically good political operator. Not only does he know the system inside out, he also seems to know everybody. He enjoys a good fight, a really good conflict. He becomes bored if things are just going on in a mundane sort of way."

Alan Franks

BA'S PLACE IN THE SKY



All figures 1986. Source: IATA

Top ten airlines by route passenger kilometres*

* Total passengers carried multiplied by total kilometres flown	
ALL FLIGHTS	INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS
United.....95.3 billion	British Airways.....38.4 billion
American.....78.5	Japan Air.....30.8
Eastern.....56.1	Pan American.....28.3
Trans World.....44.1	Lufthansa.....24.1
British Airways.....40.4	Air France.....21.9
Japan Air.....38.5	Qantas.....20.1
Pan American.....35.7	KLM.....19.0
Continental.....33.6	Trans World.....15.9
Air France.....27.5	Iberia.....13.9
Lufthansa.....26.6	United.....13.4
British Caledonian 7.3	British Caledonian 7.0
(28th in list)	(22nd in list)

Half an hour of dangerous radio

Out front, in the sweltering World Trade Centre near Tower Bridge, Robin Hicks, Controller of Network Radio, tries to warm up the half-dead London audience. "Hands up," he says. "Who thinks Jonathan Dimbleby is a good idea?" One hand rises.

"Give me a village half any time," the production assistant sighs. *Any Questions?* is in its element at the heart of a small community, with local people armed with questions and fighting for seats. But tonight there are empty places, even a shortage of questions.

The programme, however, has come through worse. It has been forced off the air by chanting students in New Zealand and chanting Asians in Bradford. In London, a demonstrator seized the microphone in mid-programme. This is dangerous

John Timpson leaves

Radio 4's *Any*

Questions? tonight.

Nigel Andrew went

along last week to

discover the

programme's secrets

radio: live. On stage, as the

deadline approaches, pro-

ducer Carole Stone's stop-

watch goes wrong for the third

time. She dashes off stage to

get it fixed.

Then, with one minute to

go, John Timpson, the Home

Office Minister, a newcomer

to the programme, demands

water. More panic. Pouring

water on air is a cardinal sin: it

sounds like a noisy cistern.



Chairmen from left, Jacobs, Timpson and Jonathan Dimbleby

But jugs and glasses are

produced with seconds to

spare, and John Timpson,

unflappable through all the

panic, begins the deftly comic

humorous sketches which in-

terduce the panelists.

His humour has been a

useful counterweight to the

increasingly political bent of

the programme. A "bird

which is coming in tonight

under his successor, Jonathan

As the show goes under way

Father performs with notable

aplomb, but the two other

politicians, David Owen and

John Smith, both seem a little

suspicious. The fourth guest,

Pauline Matthews, does well

to keep her seat, but her

commentary is a little

stilted. Jonathan is the truly

can't anybody could imagine

the backstage anguish. As

always, it seems to be the

product not merely of his

charismatic personality, but of

a complex of factors — the

audience, the venue, the pre-

programme under the max of

managing the audience.

Jonathan comes and chair-

man, and the show goes on.

Jonathan is a man who has

been a part of the British

media for many years. He is

a man who has been a part

of the British media for many

years. He is a man who has

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CONCISE CROSSWORD No 131

ACROSS

- State of uproot (6)
- U.S. capital (6)
- Jump over (4)
- Lower jawbone (8)
- Quiet period (3-4)
- Slow learner (5)
- Local trial (7)
- Dark (5)
- Double-bore (7)
- Bronze (5)
- Cooking sheep (4)
- Unsettling (6)
- First batsman (6)

DOWN

- Bulging (7)
- Snout (5)
- Aggressive elapid snake (5)
- Talkative (4)
- Minister's body (7)
- In what place (5)
- Improve (5)
- Haggard (5)
- Unsettling (7)
- Customary (7)
- Carpenter's peg (5)
- Snow house (5)
- Tanned (5)
- Wan (4)

SOLUTION TO No 130

ACROSS: 1 Bump 4 Gypsum 9 Hauteur 10 Barn 11 Kola 12 Necessity 14 Find the lady 15 Refresh 16 Cock 22 Wharf 24 Loom 25 Larder 26 Useful

DOWN: 1 Buhl 2 Photo 3 Sheddade 5 Yoh 6 Swigged 7 Monks 8 French chalk 11 Kif 12 Salacious 15 Inflame 16 Yak 17 Trowel 20 Cliff 21 Meal 23 Fee

SATURDAY

Tales from the Taj

Elizabeth Jane Howard set out on an architectural tour of India and returned with a book. Tomorrow in *The Times* she describes the "avalanche of strangeness and differences" that assailed her.

The Queen and the Kremlin

No British reigning monarch has ever been in Russia. John Gigg argues that the time has come for a royal visit.

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Until a car is produced that's impossible to lock yourself out of.

Until a car is produced that will never get broken into.

Until a car is produced that will never have a flat battery.

Until a car is produced that will never run out of petrol.

Until a car is produced that will never have a punctured tyre.

Until then.

There's a part that should be fitted onto every car that's made.



THE TIMES DIARY

Bell in the lobby

David Steel may find himself in a tricky position from today, as Andrew Gifford, one of his general election advisers, has sold his parliamentary lobby business to Tim Bell, the Prime Minister's favourite advertising man. Bell, who joined Frank Lowe and Geoffrey Howard-Spink after he left Saatchi and Saatchi, is building up the firm's parliamentary business by acquiring Gifford, whose clients have included Guinness, Westland and Euroroute, the former Channel Tunnel Group, and the extinct Metropolitan County Councils. Gifford, a member of the Wayne brewing family, and Wilf Weeks, who founded Gifford, have sold out for £6 million and are taking three-year contracts with Lowe *et al.* while one or two of their 20-strong staff stand to make around £250,000 from the deal which goes through today.

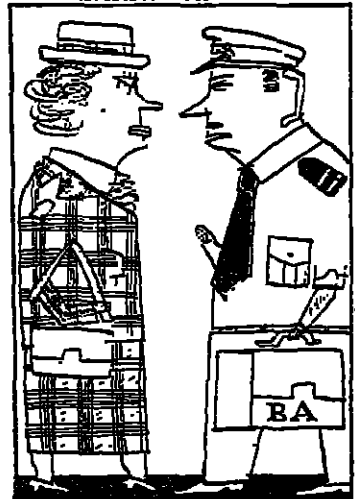
Legal loophole

No wonder barristers' clerks retire at 38 (PHS July 3). My attention has been drawn to an extraordinary tax concession which entitles them to full exemption on their cut of the fees paid after retirement. This unique privilege was negotiated by the Barristers' Clerks Association on behalf of the 300 senior clerks because of their financial uncertainty as employees of a self-employed profession which cannot sue for non-payment. As clients often delay paying for at least five years, and senior clerks receive as much as 10 per cent of an annual chambers revenue of £1m, I can see why our Working commuter was celebrating.

Meeting matron

More terrifying by far for new Tory backbenchers than the formal introduction to the House are the getting-to-know-you sessions that Mrs Thatcher has been holding. With eager new boys and girls all trying to make their mark, some I hear, have badly misjudged their leader's temperament. One went into the PM's Commons office intending to demonstrate that he possessed an independent mind by suggesting that the party could learn from Labour's impressive election campaign. The frosty reception he received was equalled only by the warmth with which the Prime Minister took the comments of another aspirant. He said his only criticism of the election campaign was that Central Office had failed to supply his constituency with enough *I love Maggie* stickers.

BARRY FANTONI



Lighting rod

While all America has tuned in to the Frangate hearings, few will have failed to notice Lt-Col Oliver North's astute lawyer, Brendan Sullivan, whose skill at acting as a lightning rod to deflect difficult questions from his client was one of the hearing's set pieces. Sullivan's outburst at Senator Daniel Inouye, chairman, for mentioning the Nuremberg trials at North's last appearance before the committee was regarded by White House watchers as a typically successful example of the trial attorney's combative technique. But there are background similarities as well as friendship between the two men. Like North, Sullivan is a former Vietnam veteran and a Roman Catholic (although North is now an Episcopalian). Just as well they enjoy each other's company and spend family weekends together — with the threat of criminal proceedings hanging over North they will be spending a lot more time together.

● Latest delicacy being offered to New Yorkers is the Ollie Burger: bloodied American beef garnished with shredded lettuce and "secret sauce from an old Iranian recipe".

Black and grey

Hammerstein theatregoers were mystified to spot anti-apartheid campaigner John Parry leading the applause this week at the first night of *You Strike the Woman, You Strike the Rock*. The play is performed by a South African company at the Riverside Studios. Parry, some may recall, hit the headlines last year by leading the picket of the nearby Lyric Theatre when it staged a similar play with South African performers last year. Parry told me yesterday: "Boycotting is a tactic we have always deployed selectively." But the really puzzling aspect of his performance is that both companies are black.

PHS

The takeover by British Airways of British Caledonian must not be allowed. The correct remedy for an ailing competitor is more opportunity, not more monopoly.

British Airways is a great airline, the biggest outside America and the Soviet Union, and it is second to none in the quality of its flight operations and engineering standards. Now that it is privately owned, and out of the state ownership headwind, it has become even stronger.

How ironic that B-Cal, which for a quarter of a century has been the indefatigable champion of competition for the scheduled service monopoly of British Airways and its predecessors should now declare its desire to defect. This is not the sort of bounce which Mrs Thatcher intended to give the country's airline industry when she sold British Airways to private investors.

A merger will make the British scheduled airline industry a bigger monopoly than it was in 1960, when a Conservative government introduced a Civil Aviation Act to give the independents more scope, and when Sir Adam Thomson founded Caledonian Airways with a secondhand Douglas propeller.

Sir Adam never set out to "beat" the powerful state monopoly. He just believed that British air transport was big enough for an alternative force — not confronting BA head-on, but competing with it intellectually, as well as operationally, wherever the British air transport effort might be defeatist or unimaginative.

Governments of both political colours supported the alternative force policy: indeed, a Labour government first allowed B-Cal to compete with the state airline on the north Atlantic.

Of course, B-Cal is not the only

From a free market to a British Aeroflot

by Michael Ramsden

Independent airline, Britain has a score of big strong airlines — some as big as Swissair. But only B-Cal is in British Airways's route league, with an international network and a world-class modern fleet.

This is not just thanks to B-Cal's own efforts over 27 embattled years; it is the result also of government policy, socialist and Tory, over that period. B-Cal's motto, "We don't forget you have a choice", has always been more than an advertising jingle: it has been a spur to its own staff as well as to its competitors. Its fleet and route network and the professional management behind them have taken many painful years to build up.

Britain as a result has the most powerful and efficient airline industry outside the United States. Where one airline might neglect a market or a new product, another is there to offer a second professional opinion.

Air transport would not be one of Britain's most successful industries if the old 1946 state monopoly had been left unchallenged by the Thomsons and Lakers of this world.

To B-Cal more than to any other airline we owe the existence of Gatwick as a London terminal. The One-Eleven, Britain's most successful jet, would not exist but for B-Cal's constituent, BUA. To B-Cal, most of all, do we owe jet competition (and breakfast) on London-Glasgow and other domestic routes; and to it we owe also the origins of the world's best air holiday charter bargains and orders for European Airbus, rather than American Boeings.

American air transport policy has always been pluralist, insisting on a minimum of two flag-carriers per international route to get the best deal for America. On the North Atlantic today are half a dozen scheduled American airlines, including the mighty Pan-

American and TWA. Is there now to be only one British scheduled carrier on the world's biggest international air route?

The implications of this proposed merger are too serious to be left to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which has no air transport industry experience. The Civil Aviation Authority is the expert national body. The authority has been the informed regulator of air transport competition delicately balancing in the national interest to be complementary rather than cut-throat.

A merger between British Caledonian and British Airways would completely undermine this policy, and with it the body setup by parliament as the nation's airline policy maker.

If the best that ministers can now do is to refer the merger to the monopolies commission, that body must certainly listen to the Civil Aviation Authority and to the influential and well informed Airline Users Committee.

B-Cal has been driven under BAA's out-stretched wings by lack of market opportunity, not by other shortcomings. It is still, for example, excluded from the richest scheduled home market, Heathrow. Three-quarters of Britain's scheduled air transport revenue is in British Airways's hands, including all the high-yield routes operated in price-fixing profit-sharing pools with Air France and other European flag carriers.

A British Airways takeover of B-Cal would create the biggest national airline monopoly in the Western world. Do we want a British Aeroflot?

The author is editor-in-chief of *Flight* magazine.

Robin Oakley reviews the first utterances of parliament's new members

Old-fashioned maidens



New brood, top row left to right: David Blunkett, Rhodri Morgan, Ian Bruce and Ken Livingstone. Bottom, from left: Julian Brazier, John Redwood, Graham Allen and David Porter

It is both a tribute to the government and a measure of its problems that the maiden speeches concentrated more on social than on economic matters. Tories, too, have been concentrating on issues like the inner cities and housing and health. Only one Conservative, Quentin Davies (Stamford and Spalding), went so far as to start talking of the "problems of success". But Ian Bruce (Dorset S) robustly declared that there was no such thing as the North-South divide. He had as many unemployed on his patch as there had been in Colne Valley, where he had previously run an employment agency.

Time after time, Labour speakers revealed experience in local government, starting with the outstanding maiden from David Blunkett (Glasgow, Pollok), Elliot Morley (Glasgow and Southside), Eric Marlow (Carlisle), Paul Flynn (Newport W) were among a long string of former councillors who warned the government that if it pressed ahead with attempts to marginalize local government it would have a fight on its hands.

The Tories rarely showed a corresponding passion for Thatcherism, save perhaps for Mrs Gorman, who urged that the less local government was left doing the better it would be.

There have been some highly effective attacks on the poll tax from Scottish members, notably from Brian Wilson (Cunninghamham

N) who warned of the temptation for heads of households of limited means to minimize the number of adults living in the household. Young people would mysteriously be away in other cities looking for work or hidden under beds when the inspector called.

The Tories, on the whole, have been less controversial and less individual. It is the most thankless task in politics being a backbencher behind a government with a big majority. But this parliament will not be without its Conservative rebels. Julian Brazier (Canterbury) and David Shaw (Dover) have already criticized the government for steamroller tactics over the Channel tunnel. And there have been gentle warnings from the shires and country towns, for example from David Porter in Jim Prior's old seat of Waveney, that support for inner-city initiatives can only go so far. The Tories have other interests to look after too.

If some of the Labour firebrands — Ken Livingstone, Paul Boateng and Bernie Grant — have gone off with the predicted whoosh (while others like Pat Wall and Chris Mullin of Sunderland South flopped), we have seen quieter entrances of MPs on both sides who are likely to last the distance. This is an intake of quality.

David Blunkett (Sheffield Brightside) and his guide dog, Ted, are stars already. Mrs Joan Redwood, the elegant ex-chairman of CND, is too clever to get typecast

and made an excellent maiden speech on housing problems. Graham Allen, who has made three speeches already, needs little by the way of notes, speaks from a depth of knowledge and clearly has the energy to go far.

I did not hear Brian Wilson (Cunninghamham N), but his speech fairly scorched the pages of Hansard and he is clearly a controversialist to note. For me the outstanding Labour maidens were those of Alistair Darling (Edinburgh Central), rationally dismembering the government's local government bill and of Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff West) mixing Welsh wit ("I am the present Mr Speaker's predecessor's successor") with a neat demolition job on the government's industrial record.

The Tories, quieter so far, are harder to judge. But we are clearly going to hear plenty of Mrs Gorman. John Redwood (Wokingham), the former head of the No 10 policy unit, is an elegant exponent of the enterprise culture who is sure to prosper and Julian Brazier is unlikely to be held back by his Channel tunnel opinions after an outstanding maiden on defence procurement.

Robert Hughes (Harrow West) has hit the track running, too, and Matthew Carrington, who won back Fulham at the general election, has clearly benefited from his bloodletting at an unsuccessful by-election there the year before, and showed some real muscle.

Thatcher can point to the Falklands, to the Camp David agreement on Star Wars, to the extradition treaty and US backing for a variety of policies.

But there has been a price: the Libyan raid cost much political capital at home, and Mrs Thatcher's reputation as Reagan's most loyal ally has not always helped her elsewhere in the world, including Europe.

She will support her old friend in a time of trouble. But she must, for the sake of continuity, start looking beyond the next 18 months. And just as even Republicans are beginning to take their distance from the Reagan administration, she too must prepare for the time when such closeness to the former president is not necessarily an advantage.

Such is Mrs Thatcher's reputation here that any future US president, Republican or Democrat (unless it is someone committed to an initiative in Northern Ireland) will want to harness as much of it as possible to his new administration. Britain will never influence US policy as it once did. But because of Mrs Thatcher's strength at home and her position on the world stage, the balance of the relationship has already shifted back to greater equilibrium. Her talks here are intended to reinforce this trend.

Ben Pimlott

When socialism seeks to please

When Roy Hattersley takes an apparently left-wing line in a Labour Party debate, it is time to take off one's spectacles and read them. "A political party can only survive, if it has a clear ideological position." When on earth people are wondering if it is going on?

There has certainly been a very peculiar mood in the Labour Party since the election defeat. The 1987 result is much worse than that of 1959 and arguably more ominous in its long-term implications than that of 1963, yet there has been no sense of a new dawn. The Labour Party has been in a state of confusion since the election, and the confusion is not only in the minds of the party but also in the minds of the public.

The most interesting comparison is not with 1983 or 1959 but with 1931, when all but 46 Labour MPs lost their seats. On that occasion, as in 1987, Labour's spirits were surprisingly revived, rather than crushed, by the experience of disaster. "We have been beaten," observed the socialist writer D.G.H. Cole at the time, "no doubt thoroughly, devastatingly, overwhelmingly, but not all the same the predominant feeling in my mind, and in the minds of most of those I meet, is not depression, but rather elation and escape."

Exhaustion is a familiar British socialist theme, and it is an element in recent Labour discussions. So is heresy. At present, so far held, a conventional atmosphere has prevailed as speakers have vied with one another to expose the fallacy of their own ideological deviations.

Few people (John Lloyd, editor of *New Statesman*, is a significant exception) are yet daring to speak plainly about the party's confused policy on defence. Instead, the emphasis has been on areas where Labour had already begun to code ground before the election, but had failed to carry conviction.

As one contributor to a recent Fabian Society debate put it, Labour's image problem is the product of decades of conservatism rather than of the recent past. Council house buyers, shareholders, mortgage-interest payers — who include many members of a "new" working class that has done well out of the depression — do not see Labour as an ally and identify themselves elsewhere.

At the same time, some speakers were keen to raise the stakes. Not only skilled and white-collar workers but, in the words of one Fabian, "people with two homes and two cars" must be attracted. There was even an eloquent plea from a left-wing economist on

behalf of millionaires who made their fortunes through honest toil rather than at the Stock Exchange casino.

Mr Hattersley was not at this particular meeting, but perhaps he heard about it. His parody "What's all this about the Sermon on the Mount? You've been going on about the Sermon on the Mount for 2,000 years. We need something new to attract the trendy, upwardly mobile middle classes" was certainly appropriate.

Many of Labour's sacred cows are dispatched to the altar, what then? It is a very necessary question. One thing is certain: Mr Hattersley will stand no chance of success if he seeks to outbid Mrs Thatcher on a materialist auction. Mr Hattersley has thus been right to point to the flaw in the crude version of the "socialism equals wealth for all" argument. If there is to be no more content to Labour's message than a computer-based dissection of consumer demand, Labour will be even less able to compete with a sufficiently large minority, that can deliver the goods as well as promise.

The task for Labour is more complex. It must learn to lead, and to lead it must first understand it. It must understand the changes that are taking place, so that it can regain its historic role as the party that speaks primarily for working-class people, however fuzzy the concept of "working class" may now have become. What Labour cannot do is appeal to everyone. There has always been, and there must be, a constituency beyond its borders.

Obvious as it may seem, Labour must not be afraid to speak plainly about the party's confused policy on defence. Instead, the emphasis has been on areas where Labour had already begun to code ground before the election, but had failed to carry conviction.

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however... Henry Stanhope

Messing about in mufti

The Mother of Parliaments, Mrs Thatcher, is said to be against allowing television cameras into the House of Commons until MPs have learned to behave themselves. This is tantamount to saying that the great white shark should not be introduced into the Serpentine until it has been taught not to eat people. But one can see her point — or hear it — by tuning in to *Yesterday in Parliament*.

A Commons debate, as every body knows, has little to do with governing the country. It's just an opportunity for MPs to show off their oratorical skills learned in their local union — whether Orbridge or the Transport and General Workers. Then the side which did best in the general election wins. If they voted first, then argued about it later in the bar, it would save a lot of time and trouble for everyone.

All that, however, was an accepted truth at the time of *Pia the Younger*. So what's new? What's new seems to be that they now have forgotten even how to dress. Since the last election, particularly, there have been reports of MPs turning up in anything from open-necked safari shirts to gym shoes. Mr Bernie Grant, the Honorable Member for Tottenham, reportedly set a trend the other day by listening to the Queen's Speech attended in a kind of white gown.

The days when a pair of canny yellow socks and a mushroom sueded could cause more than a flickering eyelid in the tearoom have long gone. But it's still hard to picture Anthony Eden at the dispatch box in open-toed sandals or the turtlenecked Clement Attlee in a kilt. Even in this age of liberal thinking, there are limits to a man's imagination.

There is, of course, no reason why one should not speak from the backbenches in favour of the Offshore Fisheries (Mackerel, Plaice and Flounder) Protection Bill, dressed in flapping oilskins, sou'wester and a pair of wellies from Woolworth's. Nor, for that matter, is there anything to stop the Secretary of State for Agriculture turning up with a pig in his pocket or the Minister for Sport in football boots. Perhaps Erskine May says they shouldn't — but I suspect that it is a contingency which no one has allowed for heretofore.

On the other hand I am not without some sympathy for those who like their MPs to dress up. The danger of the trend to informality is not that they will look different from one another. The risk is that they, and we, will all look the same.

Journalists are fortunate in that they are actually supposed to look scruffy. In a housewife goes to the door and finds a man in a dark, well-pressed suit with crisp white cuffs, gold watch chain, stiff collar, silk tie, rolled umbrellas, tailored hat and bowler hat; she does not expect him to say that he's come from the *Daily Bugle*. If he does, she might rightly claim the door and call the police — to report that she's found the con man they've been looking for.

On the other hand, if she went to her family solicitor and found him in a weathered pair of cords and patched sports jacket, with unkempt hair and unpolished shoes, thumping away with two fingers on a battered manual typewriter with a half-full plastic cup of yesterday's coffee at his side, she might decide that her legal affairs should be entrusted to safer pair of hands.

There is, in short, a uniform which some of us still adhere to and some don't. Guards officers do, being as easily identifiable in mufti as in scarlet tunic and bearskin at the palace. Civil servants don't, affecting the mid-grey suit and "Auntie Gladys's tie" of the average middle-class male who is racing for the 8.15 from Norbiton. Clergymen sometimes do. And sometimes don't, swivelling their dog-collars according to their Ancient or Modern predilections.

I think all farmers should wear hairy tweeds. Scotsmen should wear kilts. Swinging-wing, moonstruck, Frenchmen berets and Germans Lederhosen — while burglars should sport hooded jerseys, Dick Turpin-style masks and flat caps and should carry a bag marked SWAG.

And MPs? I am all for them returning to the black coats and pin-striped trousers of their forefathers. To add a touch of distinction, Conservatives could sport blue socks, Labour members red ones and Alliance yellow — with Dr David Owen's still undecided. Yes, Prime Minister, you tell them.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 16: King Hassan II of Morocco this morning visited The Queen at Windsor Castle and afterwards was entertained at luncheon.

King Hassan II of Morocco this afternoon visited Harefield Hospital, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

His Majesty was received by the Mayor of Hillingdon (Councillor Frank Taylor), the Chairman, North West Thames Regional Health Authority (Mr William Doughty) and the Deputy General Manager and Director of Nursing Services, Harefield Hospital (Miss Kerry Boston).

King Hassan II of Morocco this afternoon at Buckingham Palace received the Right Hon George Younger, MP (Secretary of State for Defence).

The Queen this afternoon visited Milton's Cottage (Curator, Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Clark) at Clonliffe, St Giles to mark the Centenary of the Milton's Cottage Trust.

Having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Hon John Fremantle, RN) and the Chairman of the Trust (Mr Philip Burger), the Queen visited the Museum and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Lady Abel Smith, Mr Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained at a Banquet this evening by King Hassan II of Morocco at Clonliffe.

The Duchess of Grafton and the Right Hon Sir William Heseltine were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Shakespeare Globe Trust, this morning attended the International Shakespeare Globe Theatre Ground Breaking Ceremony at Liberty of the Clink, Southwark, SE1 and afterwards at luncheon at Fishmongers' Hall.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Prince Edward this evening attended a Reception following the performance of "The Beggar's Opera" by PATH Productions at the Jeannette Gresham Theatre, London, WC1.

The Princess Royal, Honorary Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Linners, and Captain Mark Phillips, Honorary Freeman of the Company, attended the Court Meeting and Luncheon of the Company at Soldiers' Hall, London, EC2.

Her Royal Highness and Captain Mark Phillips were received by the Master of the Company (Mr W F Ellershaw).

The Princess Royal, Master of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters, this afternoon attended the Court Meeting of the Company at Painters' Hall, London, EC4.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Senior Past Master of the Company (Lieutenant-Colonel F E Coxhead) and the Clerk (Lieutenant-Colonel G T Pearce).

Mrs Timothy Holderness Roddam was in attendance.

The Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips were entertained at a Banquet this evening by King Hassan II of Morocco at Clonliffe.

Royal Society of Chemistry
The Council of the Royal Society of Chemistry elected seven new Honorary Fellows at its annual general meeting yesterday.

Mr Dale B Baker, retired, formerly director of the Chemical Abstracts Service of the American Chemical Society; Professor David Parker Craig, Fellow and Emeritus Professor, Australian National University; Professor

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 16: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this evening visited gardens in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets under the auspices of the London Gardens Society and the London Children's Flower Society.

Lady Angela Oswald and Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, BT were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 16: The Prince of Wales arrived at Newcastle Central Station in the Royal Train this morning.

His Royal Highness subsequently opened the Komatsu Limited European Manufacturing Base at Birtley, Tyne and Wear.

Afterwards, The Prince of Wales visited the North East Innovation Centre, Saltmeadows Road, Gateshead.

His Royal Highness later travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight to Royal Air Force Northolt.

Sir John Riddell BT and the Hon Rupert Fairfax were in attendance.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were entertained at a Banquet this evening by King Hassan II of Morocco at Clonliffe.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this afternoon at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

Her Royal Highness, as President of the Royal Ballet, this evening attended a performance by the Royal Ballet School at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The Countess Alexander of Tunis was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 16: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, as President, was present this morning at a Meeting of the Ladies' Guild of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem at Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1.

Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott was in attendance.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were entertained at a Banquet this evening by King Hassan II of Morocco at Clonliffe.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Army Educational Corps, this morning received Major General Denis Ryan on relinquishing the appointment as Director, and Brigadier Stuart Lee on assuming the appointment.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 16: The Duke of Kent today opened the Sandford Gate War Memorial, Sandford, Oxfordshire, and the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Command and Control Centre, near Stone, Later, as President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Duke of Kent visited the Commission's Commonwealth Cemetery and the German War Graves Commission Cemetery at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by Captain Michael Campbell-Lamerston.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were entertained at a Banquet this evening by King Hassan II of Morocco at Clonliffe.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
July 16: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were entertained at a Banquet this evening by King Hassan II of Morocco at Clonliffe.

Jack Halpern, Louis Block Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, University of Chicago; Professor Dudley Robert Herschbach, Professor of Chemistry, Harvard University; Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, Professor of Chemistry, College de France, Paris; Mr Robert Malpas, a Managing Director of British Petroleum; and Professor George Claude Pimentel, Professor of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley.

The total number of Honorary Fellows is restricted to 80 at any one time.

Science report
By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Universe gets its youth back

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new method of analysing the evolution of stars from changes in their chemical composition has led scientists to conclude that the universe still carries the bloom of youth — in astronomical terms.

The results show that the universe is less than a mere 12 gigayears (12,000 million years) old, rather than previous estimates of 16-18 gigayears.

The new figure comes from observations by Professor Harvey Butcher, which are reported in *Nature*.

This revision of the age of the cosmos has profound implications according to Dr Gerry Gilmore, of the Institute of Astronomy, at Cambridge University. He says determining the age of the universe is one of the most important, but difficult, problems in modern astronomy.

Dr Butcher, of the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, in the Netherlands, studied 20 sun-like stars to conclude that our galaxy and, by extension, the universe was between 10-12 billion years old.

He has overturned previous estimates by devising what is in effect a third clock to tell the minimum age of the universe.

His findings are contained in a paper entitled "Thorium in G-dwarf stars as a chronometer for the galaxy".

Dr Butcher used some of the world's most sophisticated astronomical equipment at an observatory high in the Chilean Andes to measure undecayed thorium-232, a radioactive element, in 20 galactic stars of varying ages.

Contrary to existing theory, Butcher found the amounts of undecayed material did not vary with the age of the stars.

"There was no detectable difference between the old and young stars", he says.

He studied the stars at the European Southern Observatory at La Silla in Chile in 1983 and 1985 and has worked since then in Groningen on computer analysis and writing the technical paper.

The principle of the new technique is straightforward. When radioactive atoms breakdown into one or more daughter elements, they do so at a constant rate.

By counting the relative number of parent and daughter elements, it is possible to deduce the time at which the pure parent element was created.

Dr Butcher's calculations involved measurements of the proportions of thorium-232, which is radioactive and so decays with time, and the amount of a stable element, neodymium.

This is a variation of an established method in which the quantity of thorium is compared with the proportion of uranium-238 into which it decays.

Thorium is used for dating because of its slow rate of decay. It has a half-life of 20 gigayears.

By examining the chemical composition of the atmospheres of particular stars, and using both techniques, Dr Butcher found the oldest star dated by the greatest change in ratio of the elements could be no more 12 gigayears.

In addition to previous dating by observing properties like temperature, luminosity and mass, calculations of the age of the Universe depended on the so-called Hubble constant for measuring the expansion of the universe.

Galaxies are seen to be flying apart in the so-called Hubble expansion of the Universe; by extrapolating the observed velocities backwards, calculation show that the galaxies would have been very near each other.

Reference: *Nature* Vol. 238, p. 127-131

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Brown, RN, and Miss S.R. Munday
The engagement is announced between Andrew Allan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Edward Brown, of Weybridge, and Perth, Western Australia, and Sheila Ruth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Munday, of Worcester.

Mr P.E. Greenwood and Miss D.A. Wall
The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of His Honour Judge and Mrs Peter Greenwood, of Stock, Essex, and Denise, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Wall, of Bussellton, Western Australia.

Mr C.R.D. Harris and Miss C.F. George
The engagement is announced between Christopher Raymond Dudley, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Harris, of Harpenden, and Caroline Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.F.W. George, of Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Dr E. Iacoponi and Dr P.R. Hatfield
The engagement is announced between Eduardo, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. Iacoponi, of São Paulo, Brazil, and Penelope, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs M.R. Hatfield, of Heronsgate, Hertfordshire.

Dr A.H.S. Lee and Dr E.M.A. Witherington
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs C.L. Lee, of Hertford, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Witherington, of Newport, Gwent.

Mr E.H.S. Lock and Miss C.B. Metcalfe
The engagement is announced between Edward, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H.E.F. Lock, of Deer Leap House, Moreton, Dorchester, and Caroline, elder daughter of Commander and Mrs A.F. Metcalfe, of The Grange, North Street, Theale, Berkshire.

Mr C.N. Strong and Miss F.E. Fleming
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Colonel and Mrs G.G. Strong, of Bishopstone, Wiltshire, and Fiona Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr R.S. Fleming, of Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs D.E. Green, of London.

Mr M.A. Lowndes and Miss A.E. Jordan
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr T.A. Lowndes and Mrs D.S. Grant, of Bury St Edmunds, and Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.S. Jordan, of Longfield, Kent.

Herr P.A.S. Lundquist and Miss J.M. Hopcraft
The engagement is announced between Herr P. son of Herr and Frau Arne Lundquist, and Judith, daughter of the Rev Jonathan and Mrs Hopcraft.

Mr P.J. Moloney and Miss S.A. Beauchamp
The engagement is announced between Paul Moloney and Sharon Beauchamp, both of Chelsea, SW3.

Mr R.J. Prioleau and Miss L.C. Hackwell
The engagement is announced between Robert James Patrick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Prioleau, of Chesham, Bucks, and Lucy Catherine, daughter of the late Dr Roger Hackwell, of Harare, and of Mrs R. Hackwell.

Mr R.D.I. Prosser and Dr E.M.A. Witherington
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs C.T.H. Prosser, of Hove, Sussex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J. Wright, of Edinburgh, Scotland.

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Mr G.W. Taylor and Miss N.A. Martin
The engagement is announced between Graeme, son of Mr and Mrs Wally Taylor, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Nora, daughter of Dr and Mrs Jorge Martin, of Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Mr M.C. Yorath and Miss A.H. Hayland
The engagement is announced between Martin Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs L. Yorath, of West Wickham, Kent, and Angela, second daughter of the Rev E.S. Hayland, of Vicarage Crescent, Battersea, and Mrs G.M. Hayland, of Aldringham, Suffolk.

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THE ARTS

Dogged demise

Death is often said to be our last taboo — perhaps because it does not happen very much in public any more, perhaps because it seems in some way to deny the power of medical science to do anything other than postpone the full stop at the end of our life sentence.

Loving Memory (BBC2), a new series on the diverse forms of mortal commemoration, would be a standard animated colour-supplement job were it not for the crisp camerawork on the one hand

TELEVISION

and, on the other, the soggy versifying of the well-known Yorkshire poet Tony Harrison, its writer and presenter.

Gravestones are a redoubtable bastion of doggerel, and Mr Harrison's rhymed commentary doggedly took its cue from such trite effusion larded with self-conscious borrowings from Thomas Gray. This bodes ill for the series: Mr Harrison has immersed himself in his material to the exclusion of objective comment. Perhaps this is how taboo works in practice, with grannies licking sticks of black-and-white *Loving Memory* rock on the front at Blackpool while George Formby extolled its virtues on the soundtrack.

In this context, the interviews with different families who have found peculiar ways of remembering their dearly departed had an uncomfortable bought-in feel, while the mini-tour of the Castle Howard mausoleum suggested that the current Director General of the BBC will have his work cut out if he wishes to be so grandly memorialized.

This Week (Thames) pointed out a potential boost to the headstone industry with a sharp attack on safety standards at West Drayton air traffic control, where a 16-year-old computer keeps "flopping" at awkward moments. With typical tenacity, the programme ferreted out former employees who, no longer bound by the Official Secrets Act, were free to vent their fears. This story has been bubbling under for some months past, and one was left with the uneasy feeling that it is still a disaster headline waiting to happen.

Martin Cropper

A corridor of crazy mirrors

THEATRE

The Balcony Barbican

Defying the oblivion that normally follows an artist's death, the RSC is commemorating Jean Genet in this revival by the same director and designer who gave *The Balcony* its first public London showing in 1971. It is a production of the utmost visual splendour, played up to the limit of arrogant extravagance, and in a spirit of total reverence to Genet as a theatrical master magician.

From what I recall of the earlier production, Terry Hands (thanks partly to his own new translation in collaboration with Barbara Wright) has achieved a much cleaner line through the play.

Last time, the piece appeared divided between the power fantasies of Mme Irma's brothel and the actualities of the surrounding revolution. This time Genet's vision encompasses the entire spectacle, and the only contrast is between two sets of fantasies, one acted out in private and the other in public. At the end of the mock-revolution, there is an unexpected burst of off-stage

gunfire, and the cast look at each other in alarm until one of them remarks "It's somebody dreaming".

There is a clear affinity between Genet and his director, as Mr Hands likewise has specialized in apparently political work, only to assert the primacy of the individual and to reduce the operation of power to a succession of costume parades. But what emerges most strongly from this version is the paradoxical impulse to sacrifice individuality for the sake of some fixed and immutable role, as though life were of less value than achieving immortality as an heroic statue.

Genet famously achieves his effects by setting up a theatrical corridor of mirrors, which are duly presented on Farrah's stage: sometimes in

the form of a huge empty frame for internal monologues, sometimes with the descent of several frames which leave one guessing whether one actor is being reflected or whether there are five identical actors in synchronized pantomime. There are also the techniques of masquerade, double characterization, and the duplication of viewpoints on the same event. When one of Irma's clients expresses a desire for a hospital scenario, there is the contrast between that fantasy and his daily existence; and also, as Irma sharply points out, the cost of the nurse's uniform. Reality may not exist in Genet's world, but it certainly has a place for double-entry bookkeeping.

Such is the theatrical impact of these translations that, as in Pirandello, they have the habit of commanding your attention at the expense of everything else. And, whatever its other services to Genet, this production does nothing to save him from appearing a long-winded author. A master of French lyric prose, his

Lighting up the world

Jeremy Kingston on Victor Slavkin's *Cerceau*, which opens at Riverside on Sunday as a highlight of the London International Festival of Theatre

Natalia Andreichenko as a haunting Nadya

with Vasiliev, deals with revenges and might-have-beens.

Formerly based at Moscow's Taganka Theatre, Vasiliev's School of Dramatic Art was encouraged to leave last year and has not yet quite been given a suitable theatre to take its place. Apart from six performances in Leningrad last winter, the first sustained run of *Cerceau* since leaving the Taganka has been at the recent Theater der Welt festival in Stuttgart. From there the production moved to Amsterdam and

arrives at the Riverside Studios on Sunday, one of 20 foreign companies visiting London for LIFT, the biennial London International Festival of Theatre.

In 1985 *Cerceau* became a sensational hit in Moscow, following upon an earlier Vasiliev-Slavkin collaboration. *A Young Man's Growth-up Daughter*, which identified the pair as spokesmen for a generation of questioners. In *Cerceau* the six discontented



Grotesquely hieratic: Joe Melia challengingly farcical as the police chief who longs to be immortalized as a fantasy figure, with Dilys Laye, Robert Demeger and acolytes

ecstatic verbal powers evaporate in translation; and, as the robed judge, general and bishop take their prolonged flight into liturgical blasphemy, increasingly you find yourself waiting for the next blast of Guy Woolfenden's demoniacal organ music, the sound of an exploded palace or the moment when the speaker comes down to earth as a gas-man.

Led by Dilys Laye's briskly businesslike Irma, the company display a directorial intention to push the work to its sacrilegious and comic limits. Among the clients, Jim Carter and Robert Demeger build figures of grotesquely hieratic authority from the material of masturbation fantasy. At the other extreme, Joe Melia turns in a challengingly farcical performance as the

police chief who longs to be immortalized as a fantasy figure. All this, and the vaudeville interludes (featuring farcical clown and clown photographers), keep the attention shifting. Unlike the 1971 version, though, it does not invite the spectators to look at themselves.

Irving Wardle

Itance for himself. The sight of Cock's young girlfriend, Nadya, dressed in grandmother's white dress, transports them all into the more gracious days of the second act: the past. By recapturing some comradely spirit of pre-Stalinist Russia, expressed by the game of *Cerceau*, is a cure to be found for the hollow lives of their descendants? The plot denies the hero his ancestor's happy place and the dacha is wrapped again in boards and string like a picturesquely tied parcel. Everyone leaves — but at the very end Cock returns, scrambles up the dacha and creeps inside.

"He waits", explains Vasiliev, himself middle-aged, with thinning hair, wide beard and the patient eyes of a visionary who knows that to realize a vision requires great dollops of patience. "The Russian heart will be healed. And it must be healed from within Russia." Marrying precise naturalism with the different precisions of a dream, hauntingly interpreted by a company led by Petrenko, Albert Filozov (Cock) and Natalia Andreichenko (Nadya), the play's presence at LIFT 87 thrillingly extends the perspective of London theatre.



friends, citizens of modern Russia, gather at the dacha. The play begins when the boarded-up building bursts open from within under the hammer-blows of Cock, Lars, Pasha and the others, bringing light back into the hero's inheritance. Again we are free to interpret this.

Hotel Vietnam Gate

comes a search not only for her lost son but also her own lost youth.

Robert and his father are the play's polar opposites, the former categorically rejecting the latter's all-American values (which is hardly surprising when these are so crudely expressed). The Vietnamese characters, most interestingly, are caught between the two, not wishing to reject what America has to offer but not prepared to accept it. "We wish our country to become a pleasant hotel", says the young communist-trained tourist hostess Da Trang (played rather too statuesquely by Leanne Hong), but

when faced with guests like the Kashatskis realize there has been some mistake.

For the Marxist student turned circus entertainer Qang Ngai (a splendidly alive, invigorating performance by Daryl Kwan) the Americans have not given enough of themselves to Vietnam. Instead of the gleaming consumer goods he craves there have only been mud and blood. Robert, meanwhile, speaks in increasingly poetic language of a pastoral, idyllic, pre-American Nam of paddy fields and clouds blowing in from the South China Sea like smoke — a vision which none of the Vietnamese characters corroborates.

Instead of a sustained conflict, though, the play offers a catalogue of unanswered ques-

tions, posed by the characters in isolation. The only ones not to ask them are the Kashatskis, father and son, the former repeating his threadbare commonplaces, the latter on the borders of sanity clinging to assertions which are either unprovable ("the strangeness exists") or uncontrollable ("I am American").

The strengths of the evening are intelligent and sometimes resonant writing, uniformly committed acting and a handsome, discreetly original design by Treva Reimer. Its weakness is that the ideas, without the support either of a gripping narrative or a strong central image, are only fitfully embodied in dramatic action.

Harry Eyres

Council of woe

John Percival reports on the bleak future facing Scottish Ballet

If persistent, widespread and well-informed rumours are to be believed, the Scottish Arts Council may be on the point of wrecking one of the five bodies which justify the choice of Glasgow as Europe's "City of Culture" for 1990. Scottish Ballet ranks at least equal with Scottish Opera, the Citizens' Theatre, the Burrell Collection and the Scottish National Orchestra, and it could claim first place among them if creativity is taken into account.

Ironically, it was by an Arts Council initiative that the company was started in 1969, and from the beginning it has pursued a consistent policy of providing the whole of Scotland with a variety of first-class ballet: interesting, often excellent productions of the classics, good new works in similar vein and diverse short ballets which maintain a very respectable standard. The company has been strong enough to attract such stars as Fonteyn, Makarova, Nureyev, Bjornes, and Dowell to dance as guests, and its own dancers have always been able to stand up to the comparison. A complete success story, you might think.

The crunch comes with the appointment of a successor to Peter Darrell, the artistic director who achieved all this. Four candidates have been interviewed. It is an open secret that the dancers hope for Elaine McDonald, their ballerina throughout the company's existence, who would be expected to continue existing policies. If a new influence were preferred, but maintaining the company's classical foundation, there is another strong contender in Gelsey Kirkland, who wants to begin passing on to others some of her own hard-won insights.

The interviewing panel's choice will remain secret until it has been ratified by the board and made known to the dancers on their return from holiday at the end of the month. But it is believed that Arts Council representatives pushed hard for Michael Clark and that their control over the budget has probably carried the day.

Clark is gifted, and Scottish-born, but everything he has said and done so far suggests that he is out of sympathy with a large, diverse company. Under him, Scottish Ballet as it has flourished would surely disappear and something more like his own group be substituted, with its cult of minor personalities. That itself is doubtless a commendation in Arts Council circles. The voices are for modernism at all costs — but preferably at low cost.

A smaller company, concentrating on modern works, would fit Arts Council dogma and cost less to run. And if it proved less popular with the public (who prefer classical ballet) it could be quietly killed off altogether in a year or two. And, after that, which of Scotland's other companies would be next for the chop?

CAMBRIDGE FESTIVAL 1987

THEME: MADE IN BRITAIN

JAZZ AT THE CORN EXCHANGE

FRIDAY 24 JULY
7.30 pm LOOSE TUBES with ITCHY FINGERS
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• The first three months of English National Opera's 1987-88 season at the Coliseum, which opens on September 1, include two new productions and three revivals.

The new productions are Stephen Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*, produced by Keith Warner and conducted by James Holmes (and later Michael Lloyd), and Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, produced by Philip Prowse and conducted by Charles Mackerras (later Noel Davies). The revivals are *Salome*, *Werther* and *Rigoletto*.

Phil Melling's new play is an amalgam of *Apocalypse Now* and *Missing*, with the additional ingredient of a Vietnamese perspective.

Robert Kashatski, a young GI from Indiana looking not unlike Martin Sheen in Ian Puleston-Davies's bare-chested, staring-eyed performance, is missing presumed dead, but in fact alive and alienated from everything American in Hanoi, which his parents come out to visit after the end of the war. This somewhat implausible trip is not ostensibly a quest to recover their son, as Kashatski père (Ben Gaule providing an amusing cameo of a Midwesterner at his crassness) is a scrap-metal dealer interested in salvaging the carcasses of B52s. For his wife Ruthie, though, it be-

Gone are the innocent days of a Fifties childhood when Kedah, Perak, Selangor and Trengganu were quietly prized names in a postage-stamp collection. Music of the Royal Courts tuned into some of their darker secrets, each of the Malay sultanates has its Nobat band, and the powers of each of their instruments are renewed at a biennial ceremony of black art.

This was strictly a hands-off session. The programme warned that anyone, other than the players, who so much as touched one of the instruments would risk serious illness; to blow the *nafiri*, a long silver trumpet, is instant death. Applause was cautious as the nine musicians walked on. Their jackets were black and daffodil yellow; their fifes, drums and tripod-gong glowed in saffron velvet.

The sound was bold and

FESTIVAL

Music of the Royal Courts South Bank/Radio 3

one-dimensional: a steady thwacking of the *nahara* or kettle-drum, a harsher, scything motion of the stick for the *gendang* (barrel-drum); the close-circling sinuous line of the oboe-like *seruni*; and the periodic wood-pigeon call — a third up and a third down — of the holy *nafiri*. The gong, or *tawak-tawak*, was rather more blunt than its name.

Timbre and dynamic level may have been constant, but in metre, modality and expressive language this was music utterly impenetrable to the uninitiated. I would defy

OPERA

Dido and Aeneas St John's

must be spoken if they are not to be substituted, as in two instances here, by different lines and undoubtedly different music from what Josias Priest's young gentlemen performed?

It may have approached more closely the proportions of the work as first intended, and there was the pleasure of dance and costume. But convention does not always serve a work of art to its advantage, and in this case the prologue seemed only to stay our enjoyment of the meat of the opera, though we cannot know, of course, if Purcell's original music had the same effect.

anyone listening for the first or even second time to differentiate between the "Coronation Song", "The Drum's Tune" or "Sailing" which, apparently, accompanies the stately procession of the Sultan. This ancient art, practised daily in a three-storey tower, was a warning for the entire series against presumed familiarity. Music is no Esperanto: we see and hear through a western glass, and very darkly.

It all made the north Indian classical music of the first half seem deceptively accessible by comparison. The Ethiopians were unable to come, so Amjad Ali Kahn (sardar) and Surwesh Tawalkar (tabla) tuned the ear and spirit with a 16th-century *rag* whose ever-increasing volleys of repartee drew sighs and gasps of admiration from the audience.

Hilary Finch

The cast was headed by Eiddwen Harry's Dido, light in voice and occasionally (though not in the Lament) in intensity, but physically acted with convincing passion. Ian Caddy's Aeneas contained much elegant gesture, from eyes as well as hands, and the subtlety with which he led from his declaration to set sail to his expression of anguish at leaving Dido lent this awkward character a degree, at least, of credibility. Della Jones's chesty tones and natural sense of melodrama were well suited to the Sorceress (and, ingeniously, the Sailor).

Some imaginative choreography by Belinda Quirey kept what was often musically a shade pallid visually interesting. David Robiliu directed with unwavering enthusiasm, however, from the harpsichord.

Stephen Pettitt

"ONE OF THE FUNNIEST PLAYS OF RECENT YEARS"

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COLETTE O'NEIL
SHARON DUCE
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The rebel who waived the rules

Caspar John, son of the outlandish Augustus John, was brought up a barefoot bohemian and grew up to be our First Sea Lord. Libby Purves met his daughter Rebecca, whose biography reveals the progress from painter's 'brat' to pioneer

There is a famous photograph of the painter Augustus John, in beard and baggy britches, with his beloved mistress Dorelia by his side and a gaggle of gypsyish children at his feet. They are wearing floppy tunics, crumpled shorts and have long, ragged hair, even by today's relaxed standards they look like something left behind by a hippy convoy. By the rules of middle-class Britain before the First World War, they must have been utterly outlandish. It is with a small shock that you realize that the left-hand ragamuffin is Caspar John, who, 50 years later, became the First Sea Lord, correct and cool and formidable in the corridors of Whitehall.

He died only three years ago, with his memoirs unfinished. It is his daughter, Rebecca John, who has completed them for him. The result is a remarkable first book: she has somehow given his "rather staccato" account of his life a powerful overlay of her own feelings and insights into his progress from half-wild bohemian painter's brat, to pioneer of the Fleet Air Arm and one of the architects of the modern Navy. Unflinchingly, she takes the story right to the end, to his old age and desperate infirmity; he suffered amputation of both legs when he was 75, and wrote touchingly to a friend: "I think it will be a wheelchair existence for me, which I find intriguing rather than daunting."

Sir Caspar John had had long practice at not being daunted. His mother, Ida, died when he was barely four, worn out by five childbirths and the effort of forming part of Augustus John's bizarre ménage-à-trois with Dorelia.

None of Ida's five boys received much affection or interest from their father and new stepmother. Augustus confined his involvement to vetoing any form of orthodoxy in their upbringing or dress, although he was thwarted in this by his late wife's mother, the formidable Grannie Nettleship, who cut their hair, scrubbed them, and put them all into shoes (and even socks) for their periodic visits to her.

Back at home with Augustus and Dorelia, Caspar grew up in haphazard style, barefoot, often camping in a hammock in the famous gypsy caravan, and mixing with his father's friends. The boys played with clay in the corner of Jacob Epstein's studio, flew kites with Lady Otolina Morrell, and were taken rowing by Rupert Brooke. But emotionally "it was a very tough childhood", Rebecca says: "a good preparation for going into the Navy at 13, in some ways". When Caspar chose to become a midshipman, his father said "one less brat on my hands", and Dorelia was no help whatsoever with his uniform trunk.

His naval career is often seen as a simple reaction against his background; Rebecca sees it differently. "He did admit that he was getting away from home. But the unorthodoxy of his upbringing stayed with him, and he actually rebelled within the Navy itself, if you think about it."

Caspar's rebellion was to leave the stuffily traditional path of naval promotion and apply to train as a pilot in the 1920s. The formation of the Fleet Air Arm — later, and currently, forming a

most vital part of the modern Navy — was largely due to the outspoken enthusiasm of individuals like Sub-Lieutenant John. He regarded the naval establishment as blinkered and hide-bound, ridiculously wedded to its huge armoured battleships and ignoring the future need for air-power.

Being the son of a contrary, opinionated family helped him to fight the case. It is a pleasingly ironic thought that Augustus John's single earring and Dorelia's fey wisps helped indirectly to develop the modern Navy. It is less pleasing, to Rebecca, that her father lived to see, in the Falklands War, the vindication of his way of thinking.

In Rebecca's story, each worthy naval step of her father's life is nicely counterpointed by the story of his continuing relationship with his father and artistic friends. In the early days, we have Lytton Strachey refusing to go up in Caspar's aeroplane because he claimed that his beard would impede controls; in later years, Augustus stubbing out a cigarette on a wire of his hearing-aid, and Caspar kindly getting an officer of the Electrical Branch to repair it and take it round from the Admiralty to where the old reprobate lay sleeping off a drinking bout in his daughter's flat. "Ah, my boy Caspar," said the painter vaguely to the messenger. "Is he doing well in the

Navy?" Caspar was, at the time, First Sea Lord.

Not only was parental bohemianism always lurking in the background to the naval career: Caspar married Mary Vanderpump, herself notoriously unorthodox; she wore odd socks and drove a huge London taxi. But it was a happy family. "We used to give amazing parties: Caspar would always dance. I remember Mounthatten came once and we did the Twist."

Without doubt, the long destructive shadow of a genius in the family has touched Rebecca's own life. In her twenties, people said that she had inherited her grandfather's talent: she

drew extremely well. "I used to be flattered, and go to my attic bedroom and secretly copy Augustus's drawings. But one day I thought: 'What's the point?' " She simply stopped drawing.

She married, had a daughter (she is now divorced) and a career as a picture researcher for other people. "I have often felt — lost — well, not lost... sort of indecisive. Now I do feel a tremendous new strength. From somewhere, I couldn't explain it."

There is a quotation which opens the book. It comes from a letter which her grandmother, the ill-fated Ida, wrote 90 years ago when her own father was dying. He had been a painter too, and Ida, aged 20, wrote: "Fancy if I could finish his picture! If I had the technical power I'm sure I could put myself into his conception. Strange audacity!" That, says Rebecca, is exactly how she feels. She has done what all children somehow need to do, and finished her father's work for him. "Strange audacity. Yes, it is." In the last few years she has also begun drawing again: delicate botanical drawings, with her grandfather's eye and her father's discipline. It is some sort of happy ending.

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Generation gaps: Rebecca John and (inset) her grandfather Augustus, with Dorelia and assorted children; Caspar is on the left

With one bound he was on our screens

It was right out of a Mills & Boon romance and it caught me somewhere between my erratic pulse and my throbbing heart. Sensuous... contemporary... compelling. I thought, a story for today's woman.

By day two of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North's testimony I started eating my nightly Lean Cuisine dinners in front of the television set. What is it about him, I mused, as I chewed each piece of my chicken à l'orange 15 times to make it last longer and fill me right up, that makes me want to hum like a schoolgirl? That man suddenly has me interested in life and the Contras all over again.

"I came here to tell you the truth," he said. "The good, the bad, and the ugly." My skin tingled. "This is a dangerous world that we live in and this nation is at risk in a dangerous world. By their very nature covert operations are a lie. There is great deceit..."

His medals glinted just a little as the camera lights caught them and his gaze was absolutely steady, with the firm chin tilted up. Never mind deceit, I thought. I trust that man, that lonely beleaguered man. I'll follow you over the ridge and into the battle.

By day three it seemed clear that my feelings were not unique. With a great sigh of relief, America settled down for a good shudder and weep. He was our Colonel, strong, handsome and dominating. While others chatted he sat silent and calm. He was a real-life demonstration of the staying power of the traditional hero. And in one of those coincidences that would have delighted Arthur Koestler, the shelves of the local John Menzies were featuring a new Mills & Boon romance, wondrously titled *A Permanent Arrangement*, with its tale of an American agent on a secret mission to try to ensure free elections in the Latin American country of San Cristó.

In fact, the Mills & Boon analogy goes further. Colonel North is the man who had to lie but stood by the woman he loved — his "best friend" wife — and the US Constitution. In the rigid conventions of Mills & Boon, of course, Colonel North would have to be single and Fawn Hall in love with him. She would review his leadership qualities each night



BARBARA AMIEL

alone in her girlishly-furnished room, as she gives her tresses their 100 brush strokes. She would treasure the conviction that burned in his eyes, setting her firm breasts on fire beneath their designer blouse. She would see in his lean, dark face a secret sadness buried deep within, and would wonder. Readers, of course, would know that the secret is the Colonel's love for the Contras which must be conducted behind closed doors, in a



'She would treasure the conviction that burned in his eyes'

strange exotic country where people have names that end with "o".

Standing apart from this traditional hero is the New Man, the anti-hero of the modern novel. He is ex-National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, the man with the flat-pitched voice that sounds like a speak-your-weight machine. There is no secret sadness buried deep within him. He is visibly oily with gloom about the western world.

Fawn Hall will suspect him immediately, her fine tanned nostrils scenting an enemy of all for which her Colonel stands. She will see McFarlane

having distressed conversations with people of Democratic persuasion and warn the Colonel, who confronts McFarlane. McFarlane will break down weeping, blaming his weakness on a great ordeal that includes hours of sitting in front of rows of blow-dried Congressmen with lawyers and stenographers and tricky questions.

In the quintessential scene of the book, McFarlane will confront the enemy holding only a cake and a Bible, the twin symbols of American civilization. A true grand-slam contemporary small "11" liberal moment of truth will suffuse his empty burned-out husk as he realizes that once the Steak of Iran could have been purchased for nothing but the cake. Nowadays, the zeal of the new Iran demands other icons. In the face of Iran's pure belief, what does he stand for? McFarlane asks himself. What is this helpless, weeping enterprise called the West that has corrupted all? Isn't the Ayatollah in his simple white beard and stern black garb the man of conviction?

Back in our armchairs, spellbound in front of Ollie on the television set, we can answer these questions. Colonel North single-handedly outflanked dozens of Congressmen and lawyers. He achieved this phenomenal success largely because he was the man of conviction who believed in something and was unashamed in its defence. He held his Commander-in-Chief in awe, demanding that the President had the right to conduct the foreign policy of the nation. He waved the Constitution, arguing that it supported his actions. It was the simplest and most irrefutable argument of all — only the courts can decide otherwise.

In this halogen beam, the McFarlanes of the world melt, thaw and resolve themselves into a soggy stew. Doubt and gloom cause nasty little lines around wet liberal mouths and eyes. Colonel North's complexion is clear and wrinkles only when he grins — warmly, openly and at me. I sensed the power of his shoulders beneath the close-fitting uniform, and then lost my breath just for a moment when I saw the pulse throbbing in his throat as the camera zoomed in for a close-up.

Briefing, July 2) that unless more expectant women submit to screening by amniocentesis, there will be a marked increase in the number of babies born with Down's syndrome. This is patent nonsense since screening by itself achieves absolutely nothing; what he actually means is that more women will have abortions. My own wife was deeply offended recently by the sullen, incredulous attitude of maternity staff when she politely declined to have a scan for spina bifida; as Roman Catholics, there is nothing we could do if the baby is affected.

TALKBACK

coincide with those of Dr Davies. One of the numerous benefits of this return to what many of us believe to be the norm for human relationships, would be that protection from infection need no longer be a consideration when choosing a method of contraception. But in the present world, it is.

From James Fuller, Chestnut Lane, Amersham, Buckinghamshire
Dr Stutland warns (Medical

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY

- * Seats available
- * Returns only

THEATRE

LONDON

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Tom Baker and Pauline Jameson in Priestley's evergreen about guilt among the gentry. Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, SW1 (01-834 0283), tube: Victoria. Tues-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.45pm, mat Sat 5-7.30pm, £5-11.50.

BLUES IN THE NIGHT: Black blues musical. Debut by Bishop, Maria Friedman, Carol Woods sing their hearts out in a smoky Chicago hotel. Last four performances. Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham Street, WC2 (01-240 8230), tube: Covent Garden. Fri and Sat 8.30pm, mat Sat 5-7.30pm, Sat 11-12.30pm, £7.50-12.50.

BREAKING THE CODE: Hugh Whitemore's acclaimed drama about Alan Turing, the homosexual computer genius, with John Cusack in the leading role. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (01-300 2578), tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8.10-10.30pm, £4-13.50.

THE CANTERBURY TALES: Michael Bogdanov's cheerfully bawdy version of Chaucer's tales. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-839 5587), tube: Piccadilly Circus. Tues-Fri 8.30pm, mat Sat 5.30pm, Sat 8.30pm, £5-12.50.

COURT IN THE ACT: Gorgeous Gabrielle Drake aliases Michael Denison and dazzles Lee Montague in this genial 1912 French farce. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-826 2294), tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Fri 8.30pm, mat Sat 5.30pm, Sat 8.30pm, £5-12.50.

FOLLIES: Sondheim's musical in London at last, has Diana Rigg and Julia McKenzie leading a stately cast. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (01-379 5399), tube: Holborn/Tottenham Court Road. Previews Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mat Sat 3-5.30pm, £9-19.

MELON: New Simon Gray play stars Alan Bates as a glittering publisher imploding with sexual jealousy. Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 8822), tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat Sat 3-5.30pm, £4-14.50.

SAMMY CAHN: American songwriter and entertainer sings and entertains. Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 5122), tube: Leicester Square. Tues-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 5.30pm, Sat 8.10pm, £5-12.50.

SERIOUS MONEY: Caryl Churchill's searing musical play about the Big Bang transfers after a sell-out run at the Royal Court. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-835 3028), tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Thurs 8.10-10.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.15-10.45pm, mat Fri 5-7.30pm, Sat 4-6.30pm, £5-15.50.

THREE SISTERS: Elia Moschinsky's praised production transfers from Greenwich. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3878), tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat Sat 3-5.30pm, £5-13.50.

OUT OF TOWN

CHICHESTER: A Man For All Seasons. The story of Sir Thomas More, the king with his conscience. Festival Theatre, Odeon Park (0243 781312), 7.30-10.25pm, £5.75-12.50.

MANCHESTER: The Bluebird. Unhappy: Woody Allen revues with Derek Griffiths, Trevor Peacock, John Bennett and company. Characters include Emma Bovary, Socrates and the Pope. Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street (01-853 8833), Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm, £2.20-9.50.

NEWBURY: The Winter's Tale. The Bohemian scenes are played in the gardens beside the river, the audience sitting on hay bales. Wyndham's Theatre, Newbury (0635 46044), Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £3.50-7.95.

NOTTINGHAM: To Kill a Mockingbird. Dramatization of Harper Lee's Deep South novel, presented as a set book. Playhouse Theatre, East Circus Street (0602 419419), Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £3-6.

SCARBOROUGH: Spokesong. The story of the publike told as a musical, catchy title song. Scarborough Theatre, The Rink, 370541, tonight 8.10.05pm, £4.50.

STRATFORD: Temptation. Latest sharp comedy by Vaclav Havel. Czech dramatist banned in his own country. The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 256223), tonight 7.30-10.30pm, £5.50-17.

STRATFORD: Thus Spoke Zarathustra. Aka People Pie. Shakespeare's deepest play. Elizabethan. Delivered by John Bannan Cox in fine voice. Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 256223), tonight 7.30pm, £7-10.13.

FILMS

Also on national release

Advance booking possible

AN AMERICAN TAIL (U): The adventures of an immigrant mouse in New York, relayed in story, old-fashioned animation by former Disney artist Don Bluth. The story, though, springs no surprises. Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149), progs 1.15, 3.30, 5.45, 8.00, 10.15. Cannon Baywater Road (01-723 5901), progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.30, 11.20. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636), progs 2.00, 4.10, 6.15, 8.20, 10.30. Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310), progs 1.15, 2.55, 4.50, 6.45, 8.40, 10.45. Cannon Piccadilly (01-437 1234), progs 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00, 11.15.

CHRONICLE OF A DEATH FORETOLD (18): Rupert Everett plays a languid mystery man, newly arrived in a tropical village, whose marriage to a local beauty sets off a veritable murder spree. Based on a novel by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1941). Lumiere (01-836 0691), progs 1.50, 4.05, 6.25, 8.50.

EVIL DEAD II (18): A revised edition of the original film, in which demons who kill who crosses the threshold of a remote cabin. With Bruce Campbell and Sarah Berry, directed by Sam Raimi (84 min). Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5901), progs 3.05, 5.10, 8.55, 8.50, 11.20. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), progs 2.40, 4.40, 6.45, 8.50, 11.15.

TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

UNITED STATES: (1) The Living Daylights (12), (2) The Untouchables (12), (3) The Untouchables (12), (4) The Untouchables (12), (5) The Untouchables (12), (6) The Untouchables (12), (7) The Untouchables (12), (8) The Untouchables (12), (9) The Untouchables (12), (10) The Untouchables (12).

UNITED STATES: (1) The Living Daylights (12), (2) The Untouchables (12), (3) The Untouchables (12), (4) The Untouchables (12), (5) The Untouchables (12), (6) The Untouchables (12), (7) The Untouchables (12), (8) The Untouchables (12), (9) The Untouchables (12), (10) The Untouchables (12).



The vibrant jazz of Loose Tubes (above), a vibrant and occasionally eccentric combo of mainly wind instrumentalists, can be heard along with Elizabethan madrigals and concert pieces by George Gershwin during the three-day music festival at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. Julie Felix and Barbara Dickson, two mature graduates of the folk music school, are also among the headline acts. Felix, the senior of the two, acquired a near-culinary prominence during the Sixties with her renditions of numbers which occasionally bent under the weight of social awareness. Dickson, though popular in the folk

clubs, did not hit the big time until her appearance some years later in playwright Willy Russell's musical about the Beatles, *John, Paul, George, Ringo and Bert*. The festival, which starts today with a concert of American music by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Carl Davis, is a most eclectic affair which the organizers, David Sale, is running as a family outing. The music will be complemented by circus acts including clowns, fire-eaters and jugglers. Day tickets cost £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for pensioners and children under 12. Information from festival box office (0727 37799).

Alan Franks

Cannon Chesham (01-352 5096), progs 2.45, 6.00, 8.15. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), progs 1.40, 3.55, 6.15, 8.35, 11.15. Cannon Tottenham Road (01-636 0310), progs 1.50, 4.00, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.

CONCERTS

MORNING

JULIAN JACOBSON: This pianist starts the day with Fauré's *Sonata No. 2*, Franck's *Elegy for the Dead*, and a selection of other works. The Place, Dukes Road, W1 (01-387 0031), 8-10pm, £3.

CLIVE BRITTON: Beethoven's *Piano Sonata Op. 22*, Schumann's *Humoreske*, and Beethoven's *Sonata No. 6* on themes from Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*. Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore St, W1 (01-935 2141), 7.30pm, £2-4.50.

GUILDHALL STRINGS: The Guildhall String Ensemble performs a selection of concertos by Vivaldi, Corelli, and other Baroque composers. Guildhall, 25 Abchurch Lane, EC4A 3DF, 11am, £2-5.50.

EVENING

FIRST NIGHT OF THE PROMS: See caption. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-588 8212), 7.30pm, £2-9.

WELSH PROMS: Second season opens with a programme of Respighi, Rossini and Tchaikovsky. Welsh National Orchestra conducted by Orwin Arwel Hughes. St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371208), 7.30pm, £2-12.51.

FROM OREGON: Randall Moore conducts the University of Oregon Children's Choir in pieces by Purcell, Morley, Kodaly, Gershwin, and other composers. Randall Moore, 1000 SW 1st Ave, Portland, OR 97204, 8-10pm, £5-15.

ROCK

LILLO THOMAS: The UK stage debut of the New York solo singer/songwriter who played a recent hit in his first single release, "Sexy Girl". Hammerstein Theatre, Queensborough, London W6 (01-748 0081), 7.30pm, £7.50-12.50, for two nights.

OTHER EVENTS

RAF SHOW EASTBOURNE: A five-day air show with many static displays including the Jaguar, Spitfire and full-size replica of Nimrod; an RAF careers information point and air training corps activities. Flying programme today only features the

Town & Country, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334), 7.30pm, £4.50-15.

THE NIGHTWALKERS: A seasonal, modern blues band from Washington DC. They were nominated for the Mercury Award in 1984. After 10 albums and a decade together they deserve wider recognition in this country. Mean Fiddler, 28a Harlesden High Street, London NW10 (01-961 5490), 8pm, £4.

JAZZ

PIZZA EXPRESS ALL STARS: Reliable mainstreamers will suit to the atmosphere of a restaurant which is their home. Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-438 8722), 9.30pm, £5.50.

JOE PASS: A guitar master, at his best in solo performance. Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), 9.30pm, £2 members, 28 non-members.

WALKS

HIDDEN CURIOS & COURTYARDS OF OLD LONDON: Meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.50.

ROYAL LONDON: Meet Westminster tube, 9.30am, £2.95.

LEGAL AND LOVELY: Meet Temple tube, 10.30am, £2.50.

JEWISH GHETTO ALLEYS AND OLD COCKNEY QUARTER: Meet Whitechapel tube, 11am, £3.

THE SOANE MUSEUM AND SILVER VAULTS: Meet Holborn tube, 11am, £2.50.

100 YEARS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Meet Baker Street tube, 11am, £2.50.

LAWYERS, ORPHANS AND ARTISTS: Meet Chancery Lane tube, 2.30pm, £2.95.

GALLERIES

JOCK MACFADYEN: Tragicomic paintings on themes of everyday urban low life by an astute social commentator. Bolton Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton (0204 22311), Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30pm, Sat 10-5pm, free, until August 15.

GRAHAM OVENDEN: Recent paintings of little girls and mystical landscapes by a former member of the Surrealist Brotherhood. Piccadilly, 16 Cork Street, London W1 (01-488 6832), Mon-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 10-12.30pm, free, until July 25.

FENWICK LAWSON: Large figurative woodcarvings on religious, mythical and secular themes, humanism being the common thread. York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York (0904 23839), Mon-Sat 9-5pm, Sun 2.30-5pm, free, until August 9.

ANNE FRANK IN THE WORLD: Photographs, paintings and documents describing her brief and tragic life. City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (021 235 2834), Mon-Sat 9.30-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until August 9.

FRANCIS HAYMAN (1708-1776): An entertaining show about a lesser-known contemporary of Hogarth, whose pictures adorned supper boxes at the infamous Vauxhall pleasure gardens. The Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London NW3 (01-548 1286), daily 10-4pm, £1.50, until September 5.

VIVIAN BLACKETT: Paintings from her six-month residency at the gallery. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321), Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until July 31.

GILBERT AND GEORGE: Besides photo-panels from 1982 to 1988 at the Hayward Gallery, here are yet more recent works from the prolific hands of the Living Sculptors. Anthony d'Offay, 9 & 23 Dering Street, London W1 (01-499 4101), Mon-Fri 10-5.30pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until September 5.

BOOKINGS

FOR THE DEAF: Bernard Braden, Michael Bond, Timothy West and Julie Rogers are among the artists giving Sunday evening entertainment in aid of the Deaf Children's Fund for Deaf Children. From Sun until Aug 30. Mayfair Theatre, Stratton Street, London W1 (01-829 3037).

IDOMENEI: Simon Ratt conducts orchestra and choir of the Age of Enlightenment in two concert performances of Mozart's opera, sung complete in Italian, using period instruments. Philip Langridge in title role. Aug 2 and 4. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-922 5191, 01-922 8800).

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Booking for Christmas shows with tickets for tickets booked before Sep 30. Postal bookings now open, with personal/phone booking from July 20. December 11-15. Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 256223).

LAST CHANCE

WANGFORD FESTIVAL: Ends with music at Henham House with Coull String Quartet (tonight); choral concert with Lincoln Choral and Orchestra (tomorrow); and evening at Wangford Church (Sun).

RICHARD II: Last performances at the Barbican, with Jeremy Boice in title role. Michael Kitchen, Derrick Farmer. 7.30 tonight, 2pm and 7.30pm tomorrow. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-588 8891).

ELECTION: POLITICIANS IN MEDALS AND BADGES: More than 200 items spanning 250 years giving insight into the ways the electorate has picked its rulers. Fun at political figures, from Waterloo to Wilson and Thatcher. Ends today. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-636 1555).

SUMMER SALES

BROWNS: 23 South Molton Street, London W1. Starts tomorrow.

ENRICO COVIER: 72 New Bond Street, London W1. Starts tomorrow.

Battle of Britain memorial fly-past (2pm) and the Red Arrows (3.30pm). Refreshments throughout.

WESTERN LIONS: Eastbourne. East Sussex. Today until July 21. 10-6pm, admission free.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY FLOODIT: From today until October 31. Guided tours of the abbey will be available on each Friday evening at 8.30pm, and on Saturdays at 8pm. Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal, near Ripon, North Yorkshire (0765 86333), adult £1.70, child 80p.

CASH AND CARRY FASHION FAIR: More than 70 designers selling a wide range of clothes at bargain prices. Kensington Town Hall, Horton Street, London W8 (01-837 5464), today 10-6pm, tomorrow 10-6pm, admission 80p.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL DOCCIAN FARM FESTIVAL: 60th anniversary festival with 80 parishes taking part, each contributing a floral arrangement representing some aspect of their area. Guildford Cathedral, Guildford, Surrey, today 9-5pm, 6.30-9pm, also tomorrow and Sunday, admission free.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARBERS HALL: 628 5796/530 8991. 7.30-10.15. The 100th Anniversary of the Hall. LSO Summer Prom. Vivaldi, Corelli, Bach. Conductor: Sir John Barrow.

THE JEWELLERY OF HENRIE: 628 5796/530 8991. 7.30-10.15. The 100th Anniversary of the Hall. LSO Summer Prom. Vivaldi, Corelli, Bach. Conductor: Sir John Barrow.

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DO NOT CALL

GONE ARE THE DAYS

AND FAIR

Please Telephone

consultation. or

ground. Flour

Personage. Mance

IT COULD C

New centre for research into 'wonder conductors'

By Robert Matthews

The Government is considering the establishment of a national centre for superconductivity research.

Universities will be asked to bid to host the centre, which would concentrate on finding practical applications for the work now being carried out worldwide into the "high temperature" ceramic superconductors.

Applications will have to be in by the end of September, after which a decision will be made by the Government on the level of funding needed to support the centre.

The centre would bring together the wide range of expertise and equipment needed to study the new superconductors, which have the unique ability to lose all electrical resistance when chilled with liquid nitrogen.

Because of the wide-ranging nature of the research into the ceramic superconductors, scientists working on the new materials have found themselves having to pool resources to make progress.

A national research centre would speed progress on the understanding of the superconductors and would help in the search for materials which become superconducting at room temperature.

The centre is expected to look primarily for applications for the superconductors in the electronics industry.

The Times understands, however, that a second centre dedicated to the development

of large-scale superconducting devices, such as high-power magnets and cables, may also be set up.

The concept of a national superconductivity research centre is believed to have the backing of the Cabinet Office. Funding is likely to come directly from the Government, rather than the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) which is already under severe pressure to fund current research into superconductivity.

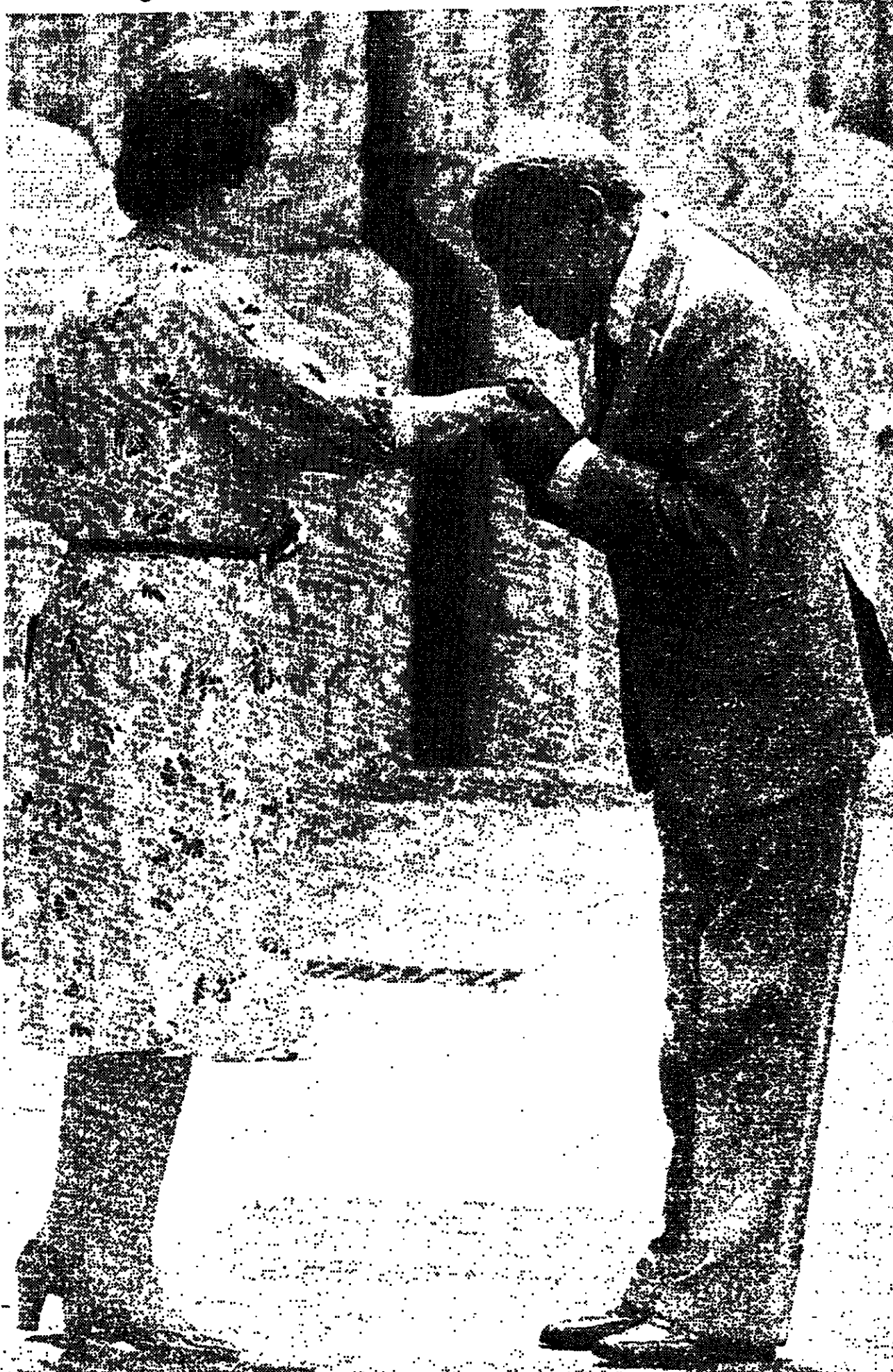
It has just announced that it has been able to back fewer than half the 26 grant applications it received from universities to carry out superconductivity research.

The total allocated to the 11 projects awarded money comes to less than £750,000.

According to Professor Brian Rainford, of Southampton University, chairman of the low-temperature physics sub-committee of the research council, the shortage of money forced the council to adopt a policy of providing money only to the most obviously important research proposals, although a very large fraction of the £3 million being asked for was worth funding.

However, Professor Rainford said yesterday that the research council hoped to have at least another £1 million to give to superconductivity researchers in each of the next two grant rounds.

Royal lunch delayed by rain



The Queen welcoming King Hassan of Morocco with a smile at the Sovereign's Entrance to Windsor Castle yesterday

By Nicholas Beeston

King Hassan of Morocco received the Defence Secretary, Mr George Younger, at Buckingham Palace yesterday for talks which centred on the possible sale of British arms to the North African kingdom.

Neither the Ministry of Defence nor Moroccan officials would comment on the substance of the 30-minute meeting, but Whitehall sources confirmed that King Hassan, who is also the country's Defence Minister, was eager to discuss arms procurement.

Morocco has been fighting a 12-year desert war against Polisario Front guerrillas over the mineral-rich former Spanish colony of Western Sahara. Britain, which adopts a neutral stance in the conflict, already sells some artillery and infantry weapons to Morocco.

Opposition MPs and peers and Polisario sources in London said this week that the King was keen to purchase British artillery, radar and possibly Tornado aircraft, although it is not clear how Morocco could afford to buy the sophisticated and expensive warplane.

Earlier, the Moroccan monarch arrived 40 minutes late for an informal lunch with the Queen at Windsor Castle. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said the delay was caused by rain, which held up King Hassan's procession in an open carriage.

Although the King's notorious sense of punctuality was an issue during the Queen's visit to Morocco in 1980, Palace sources said his delay yesterday was created by circumstances beyond his control and caused no offence. On arrival at Windsor King Hassan bowed and kissed the Queen's hand. She then

escorted him on a tour of the castle's state rooms.

The King, who was accompanied by his children, Prince Moulay Rachid and Princess Lalla Asmaa, also visited Hatfield Hospital in Middlesex where he was introduced to the pioneering heart transplant team led by Professor Magdi Yacoub, who was born in Egypt.

During the visit King Hassan spoke to Helene Cizik, aged 11, a French patient, who has recently received a new heart and lung, and met Ariella Lew, aged five, of Middlesex, who is recovering from heart surgery.

Last night, the Moroccan ruler entertained the Queen and members of the Royal Family at a banquet at Claridge's.

His four-day state visit ends today but he will be travelling to Glasgow privately before returning to Morocco on Monday.

Commons sketch

A swagger among the city arcades

Amusement arcades, declared the cheerless Ms Alice Mahon (Hull), reflect the values of our society. If what she said was true, it was hard to see why her lips were pursed in anger rather than beaming from end to end.

Were Space Invaders, Pacmen and Galaxians freely able to march in their colourful chug-chug-chugging way up and down the inner city precincts, allowing themselves to be set upon by one and all, many of society's graver problems might be solved.

But this is not the way Ms Mahon sees it. Ms Mahon believes that arcades are "run by profiteers" and that they "lead to truancy".

No doubt, in her grim and grey world, One-Armed Bandits should be declared Partially Handicapped Persons and sent away to Council-run Homes.

Mr Douglas Hogg, the Under Secretary of State, stated that the Home Office was awaiting reports on amusement arcades, and that they would then be better placed to judge.

Dr Keith Hampson (Conservative, Leeds North-West) was also trying to stop children's fun, complaining about the "increasing temptation" provided by the availability of lethal weapons.

But if children are denied their right to play with lethal weapons and gun down Galaxians, what will they get up to instead?

It seemed surprising that the doughty Dame Jill Knight (Conservative, Edgbaston) was not on her feet encouraging children under left-wing councils to stick with lethal weapons rather than be tutored in how to be homosexual by Kremlin-backed schoolteachers.

After playing around with the arcades, members jaywalked into the inner sanctum of serious crime, swaggering threateningly and dragging their lethal opinions behind them.

There were vast Majorities galore. "The vast majority of crimes are avoidable," Mr John Patten, the Minister of State, said, with such assurance that for a moment it looked as if his Department at the Home Office could be disbanded forthwith.

Mr Patten then spoke with

some excitement of a new inner city problem entitled "Steaming". This supposedly involves gangs of up to 30 people rushing onto buses, and creating havoc.

For those in the Press Gallery this brought back happy memories of the recent general election, when steam-riding the various Battle Buses became a regular pastime.

At around this time in any discussion on crime, a Tory backbencher hastens to his feet to demand the return of the birch, the rod, the galls, depuration, castration or defecation, usually with the final cry of "Hanging's too good for 'em".

This Tory backbencher is quite often Mr Tony Marlow (Conservative, Northampton North). His target was now the sports hooligan, his remedy the stocks. Mr Patten decided that Mr Marlow's suggestion was probably humorous but added that "Many London authorities, rather than having Nuclear-Free Zones or Anti-Police Zones could have Crime Prevention Zones".

"This Government" he roundly asserted, as if proclaiming an important new initiative, "is committed to crime prevention".

Mr Roy Hattersley removed the file that had been balancing on his belly, took his feet off the Dispatch Box and spluttered to his feet.

If unemployment and environment could not be blamed for the rise in crime, to what else could the Minister attribute it?

When no answer appears in the sky, a shower of percentages at least creates a distracting rainbow. Mr Patten said that the crime rate had been going up all over Europe, squirting percentages from all the main European countries all over the Opposition.

On came the Prime Minister, to reflect once again the values in our society. Within seconds, she was boasting of a visit to a new hospital, a claim she seems to make almost every day.

Could it always be the same hospital, but on rollers? Without doubt, Hospital Visiting has become the most lethal of all Prime Ministerial Amusements, and should be banned forthwith.

Craig Brown

Remission cuts to ease prison overcrowding

Continued from page 1

serve a higher proportion of their sentences than more serious offenders who are selected for parole.

Plans to provide more prison places in the longer term needed to be expanded and accelerated. It took too long to build a prison in this country, he said.

Mr Hurd's answer is a new Prisons Building Board within the Home Office "but with a strong outsider element to supervise the building programme and to exploit to the full private sector techniques in bringing new prisons on stream."

Lord Caithness, Minister of State at the Home Office, "will report immediately to me on further possibilities for using the private sector following his forthcoming visit to the United States."

Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, a former Minister of State at the Home Office, is to chair the parole and remission review.

Sir James Hennessy's report said the catalyst for the worst night of violence the English jail system has known was Industrial Action by the Prison Officers' Association.

"The effect of withdrawing prison officers' labour in emergencies was clear: it put lives and property at risk," the report said.

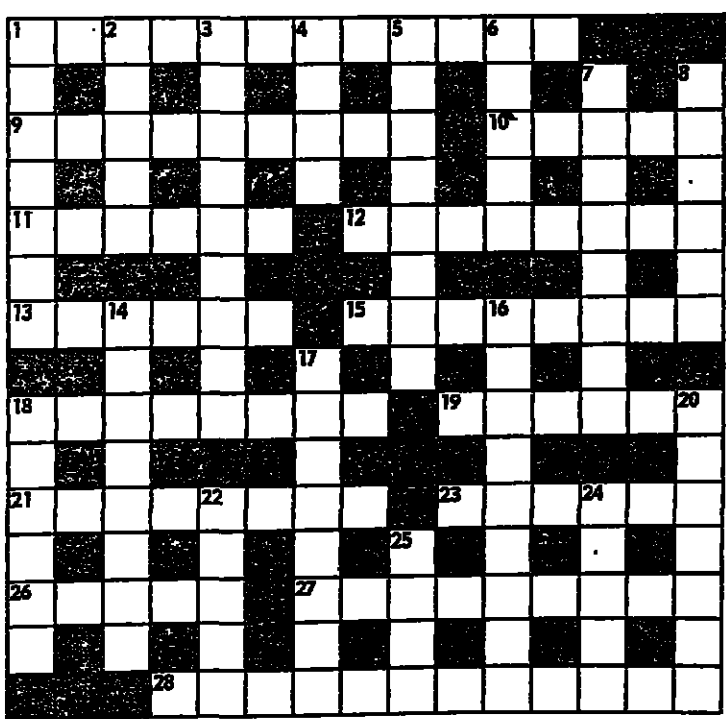
The report says that where comments were made by staff about the likely effects of the Industrial Action on Prison regimes prisoners' natural anxieties were increased.

Such comments were occasionally alleged to have been made deliberately, in order to stir up the inmates. Although there was enough evidence to suggest that this was more than a possibility in some establishments, it is likely that most such comments simply reflected the confusion and uncertainty of staff themselves.

Over 40 establishments were effected by disturbances between April 30 and May 2 1986 resulting in damage estimated at over £5.5 million and a loss of over 800 prison places. 45 in-mates also escaped.

Report of an inquiry by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales into the disturbances in Prison Service establishments in England between 29 April - 2 May 1986. (Stationery Office, £10).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,411



ACROSS

- 1 Congratulate recumbent Irishman (3,3,4)
- 9 Able to fly without difficulty (4,1,4)
- 10 Serve as a face-saving device, say, for a woman (5)
- 11 Fresh air can serve as a medicine (6)
- 12 Managing without most of the money we used to have (8)
- 13 Getting out a book (6)
- 15 Become resigned to a reduction in voltage (4,4)
- 18 Found occasion to send cheese back (4,4)
- 19 Believe in being unusually direct (6)
- 21 Poles found a city in a spaced-out way (8)
- 23 West taken in by North's fineness, and disconcerted (6)
- 26 The leaders in every event retire - that's strange (5)
- 27 When drivers should take special care, by the way (2,7)
- 28 Rhetoric (quite wrongly) as a chivalrous fellow (6,6)

DOWN

- 1 A leaf I will put inside sack (7)
- 2 Army chap captured (5)
- 3 Worthless on this? Certainly not! (2,7)
- 4 He succeeds in the Irish Derby (4)
- 5 Intent to deceive? Naughty girl! (3,5)
- 6 Firm has a way to progress without effort (5)
- 7 Girl's mother with gear that's not new (8)
- 8 Bottle green has this (6)
- 14 Nick and Harold straying over the line (3,5)
- 16 Sound pleased about ornament he has bought (9)
- 17 Child prone to making suggestions (8)
- 18 Taken in road vehicle (6)
- 20 The time to dub the sound (7)
- 22 Rear second bird (5)
- 24 Author who's bilingual? Yes! (5)
- 25 Place where toys turn up (4)

Concise crossword, page 12

WEATHER

General situation: An Atlantic depression will become slow moving over Britain. Most places will have some sunny intervals, but these are likely to be rather brief. Probably the best areas for sunshine will be western Scotland, Northern Ireland and parts of the extreme north-west of England. However, all Britain will have showers or longer spells of rain, perhaps with local thunder. It will be rather on the cool side in many places. The more prolonged spells of rain are most likely in northern England and Wales. Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Little general change. All areas will be rather cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain, some rather heavy in places.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; lg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.					
Ajaccio	c 29 84	Malaga	c 33 91	Seville	c 33 91
Algeria	c 31 86	Manila	c 33 91	Stockholm	c 33 91
Amsterdam	c 29 84	Mexico C	c 22 72	Switzerland	c 33 91
Antwerp	c 31 86	Montreal	c 21 70	Sweden	c 33 91
Athens	c 34 93	Moscow	c 15 59	Switzerland	c 33 91
Bahia	c 31 86	Nairobi	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Barcelona	c 31 86	Naples	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Bombay	c 31 86	N Delhi	c 36 97	Switzerland	c 33 91
Buenos Aires	c 31 86	N York	c 24 75	Switzerland	c 33 91
Calcutta	c 31 86	Osaka	c 24 75	Switzerland	c 33 91
Cairo	c 31 86	Paris	c 22 72	Switzerland	c 33 91
Canton	c 31 86	Perth	c 17 63	Switzerland	c 33 91
Cebu	c 31 86	Prague	c 17 63	Switzerland	c 33 91
Colon	c 31 86	Rangoon	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Copenhagen	c 31 86	Rio de J	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Dacca	c 31 86	Rome	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Dahomey	c 31 86	Sao Paulo	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Dar es Salaam	c 31 86	Singapore	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Dublin	c 31 86	Sydney	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Durham	c 31 86	Taipei	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Edinburgh	c 31 86	Tokyo	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Geneva	c 31 86	Toronto	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Hankow	c 31 86	Tunis	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Hong Kong	c 31 86	Valencia	c 33 91	Switzerland	c 33 91
Indochina	c 31 86	Vancouver	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Java	c 31 86	Warsaw	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Kobe	c 31 86	Washington	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Kuala Lumpur	c 31 86	Wellington	c 21 70	Switzerland	c 33 91
Lagos	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Lima	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Lisbon	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
London	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Lyons	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Manila	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Medan	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Melbourne	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Mombasa	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Moscow	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Mumbai	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Nairobi	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Nagasaki	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Nanking	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Nassau	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Norfolk	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Norwich	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Osaka	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Palma	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Paris	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Perth	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Portsmouth	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Prague	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Rangoon	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Rio de Janeiro	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Rome	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Sao Paulo	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Singapore	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Sydney	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Taipei	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Tokyo	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Toronto	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Tunis	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Valencia	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Vancouver	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Warsaw	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Washington	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Wellington	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91
Yokohama	c 31 86			Switzerland	c 33 91

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	C	F
Scarbrough	3.0	22	21	70	rain	
Bridlington	0.8	24	18	64	cloudy	
Crumlin	2.4	27	50	50	bright	
Lowestoft	0.7	23	73	73	rain	
Chelmsford	3.8	10	23	73	bright	
Southend	5.4	22	73	73	bright	
Margate	4.7	15	24	73	sun	
Folkestone	6.7	13	21	70	sun	
Harrogate	7.1	20	69	69	sun	
Eastbourne	7.4	43	21	70	sun	
Brighton	4.0	16	19	69	sun	
Worthing	3.8	06	20	69	sun	
Littlington	4.9	23	20	68	shower	
Shoreham	1.9	07	22	68	cloudy	
Bognor	1.9	07	22	68	cloudy	
Southsea	4.1	06	21	70	sun	
Sandown	4.1	06	21	70	sun	
Swansea	0.6	06	19	66	shower	
Swansea	0.6	06	19	66	shower	
Weymouth	0.5	12	18	64	rain	
Exmouth	1.2	15	19	66	shower	
Torquay	1.8	21	20	68	rain	
Falmouth	2.3	34	19	66	rain	
Penzance	1.8	21	20	68	rain	
Scilly Isles	7.5	14	19	66	sun	
Jersey	8.2	05	23	73	shower	
Guernsey	5.1	24	21	70	rain	
Newquay	6.6	21	19	66	rain	
St Pauli	1.2	32	19	66	shower	
Muskeget	0.8	27	23	73	shower	
S'pool Airport	1.9	37	23	73	shower	
Morcombe	1.0	41	23	73	rain	
Douglas	4.4	57	25	77	fog	
Sharncliffe	1.5	02	21	70	shower	
Bristol (Cor)	1.8	04	20	68	rain	
Cardiff	2.9	21	20	68	rain	
London	2.0	10	22	72	cloudy	
Manchester	2.0	12	22	72	cloudy	
N'ld-Tyne	1.8	23	23	73	shower	
Nottingham	1.8	23	23	73	shower	
Angley	0.4	18	21	64	rain	
Colwyn Bay	1.2	11	21	70	rain	
Colwyn Bay	1.2	11	21	70	rain	
Terby	3.3	18	18	64	cloudy	
Truro	0.2	24	19	66	rain	
Wick	0.1	16	61	cloudy		
Edinburgh	0.1	16	61	cloudy		
Edinburgh	0.1	16	61	cloudy		
Edinburgh	0.1	16	61	cloudy		
Edinburgh	0.1	16	61	cloudy		

Common sketch
vagger among
city arcades

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1926.2 (+17.6)

FT-SE 100
2443.4 (+24.2)

Bargains
61215 (61528)

USM (Datastream)
218.33 (+2.34)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6320 (-0.0005)

W German mark
2.9964 (+0.0122)

Trade-weighted
73.5 (+0.2)

Morgan cuts its gilts staff

The intense competition in the post-Bang gilts market claimed another victim yesterday when Morgan Grenfell confirmed it was cutting its gilt dealing staff by about a half with immediate effect.

This follows the recent announcement by Lloyds Bank that it was closing down its gilt market-making activities.

Morgan Grenfell said 12 gilt dealers "were leaving with generous arrangements" after a general review of overheads. The 12 joined the group following Morgan Grenfell's acquisition of Fincham Denny and Pember & Boyle ahead of last October's Big Bang.

Morgan Grenfell said it had been reviewing its fixed interest business within the broad strategy of the group, and believed it could still retain a presence in the market-place, but with fewer staff. The bank will continue to operate as a primary dealer but focus on the sterling and equity-related issues.

£36.6m issue

London Shop Property Trust is seeking to raise £36.6 million net via a convertible loan stock issue to fund on-going developments. Net asset value at the April 30 year end was 214.2p a share (193.6p) and pretax profit was £8.43 million (£7.27 million). The final dividend rises from 4.05p to 4.65p a share, making 6.2p (5.5p) for the year.

Tempus, page 24

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2488.52 (+4.78)
Dow Jones	2488.52 (+4.78)
Tokyo	24003.61 (+33.85)
Hong Kong	3305.82 (+43.52)
Amsterdam	317.1 (+1.0)
Sydney	1980.0 (+25.5)
Frankfurt	1949.2 (-2.0)
Brussels	5069.5 (+50.5)
Paris CAC	415.8 (-4.5)
Zurich S&A Gen	550.50 (+1.20)
London: FT A	n/a
FT, Gilt	91.12 (+0.17)

Closing prices Page 27
Recent issues Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
British Airways	171p (+11p)
Mercantile House	533p (+45p)
British & Comm.	527p (+25p)
Consolidated Gold	1267p (+38p)
Lorhro	303p (+13p)
Polly Peck	351p (+20p)
Rockware Group	129p (+17p)
Beecham	387p (+18p)
Tate & Lyle	919p (+35p)
Jaguar	579p (+17p)
Magnet & Southern	405p (+18p)
W. S. Smith	359p (+5p)
FW Thorpe	545p (+70p)
MS International	120p (+22p)
United Scientific	348p (+35p)
Unilever	248p (+35p)
Dixons	576p (+13p)
Wellcome	494p (+25p)

FALLS:
AC Holdings 1153p (-32p)
Dagway 387p (-5p)
Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	9%
3-month Interbank	9 1/8-9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills:	8 3/4-9 1/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	6 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.55-5.54%
30-year bonds	10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6320	£ \$1.6305
DM2.9964	£ DM1.8370
SwFr2.4921	£ SwFr1.5285
FF4.9719	£ FF4.9719
Yen145.37	£ Yen150.50
Index: 73.5	Index: 102.9
ECU 80.684968	SDR 10.785813

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$452.90 pm \$453.75	
close \$453.00-453.50	(£277.50-278.00)
New York:	
Comex \$452.90-453.40	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug.)	pm \$20.66bbl (\$20.28)
* Denotes latest trading price	

Biz Summary	24	Unit Trusts	26
Stock Market	24	Commodities	26
Wall Street	24	USM Prices	26
Co News	24	Share Prices	27
Tempus	24	Money Mkts	28
Comment	25	Foreign Exch	28
City Diary	25	Traded Opts	28

£237 million takeover of B-Cal lifts BA share price 11p

City applauds airline merger

By John Bell, City Editor

British Airways' £237 million plan to merge with British Caledonian was warmly welcomed in the City last night. BA's shares rose 11p to 171p on the news that Britain's two biggest airlines are to join forces.

Analysts believe there is considerable scope for cost savings and marketing benefits to be squeezed from the two companies.

"But what this is all about is the route structure. BA is strengthening its routes considerably by acquiring B-Cal and should be able to generate more traffic and more profits on the routes where they fly side-by-side," said Miss Jenny Wootton, airline analyst at Kleinwort, Greaveson, the stockbroker.

"B-Cal on its own simply did not have the weight," said Mr David Freud of Warburg Securities, whose Rowe & Pitman subsidiary is lead stockbroker to BA.

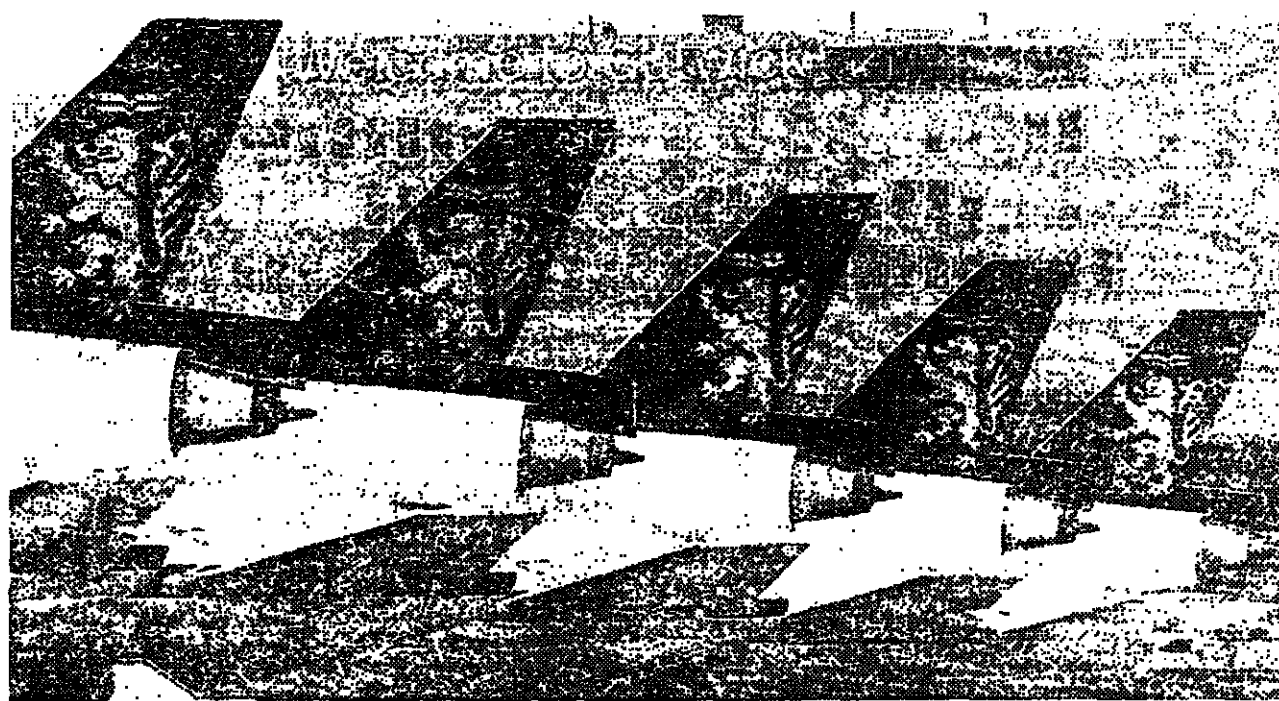
Other analysts point out that while BA's load factors, a key indicator of profitability, were running at a healthy 75 per cent, B-Cal's were thought to be running below 60 per cent.

First reactions were that BA had paid a high price to strengthen its route network.

The boards of BA and B-Cal say the merger is both necessary and in the best interests of shareholders and employees as well as the travelling public. They stress the merger will enable the combined airline to tackle the competition from big foreign airlines that have developed over the past two years, especially in the US.

Lord King, BA's chairman, and his board are known to have been concerned that the B-Cal presence on certain international routes and the requirement under Britain's competition policy to prop up the smaller company were a long-term obstacle to BA's growth. Lord King is also aware that his new shareholders are expecting growth that is difficult to secure in some markets because of the over-protective attitude of many European governments to their domestic carriers.

British airlines are unable to expand their businesses overseas except in limited cases permitted under international



The glittering prizes: British Airways will take over British Caledonian's long-distance fleet based at Gatwick

agreements. Overseas airlines are also not allowed to operate within the US, the world's biggest aviation market. After the collapse of talks on liberalizing European aviation in Brussels recently, it may be some years before British airlines are able to expand within Europe.

Terms of the offer are 115 new BA shares for every 22 ordinary shares in B-Cal. Full acceptance of the offer would involve the issue of 108 million BA shares, roughly 13 per cent of its enlarged share capital. The offer values B-Cal at £237 million, equivalent to £11.50 per B-Cal share. There

is a separate cash alternative of £10.71 per B-Cal share.

B-Cal has a fleet of 27 aircraft and flies to 21 destinations in North America, Africa, the Gulf and the Far East and also to eight capitals in Europe. Last year, B-Cal car-

ried 2.4 million passengers on scheduled services.

The group reported a loss of £19.3 million before tax in the year to end-October 1986. At the last balance sheet date B-Cal had net assets of £97.2 million.

Comment, page 25

Xerox lifts Rank to £90.1m

By Alexandra Jackson

The sound 28 per cent advance to £90.1 million in half-year pretax profits from the Rank Organisation was underpinned by a 48 per cent increase from Rank Xerox, the company's office equipment associate, to £60.4 million.

Buoyant trading for Rank Xerox, combined with favourable currency movements and lower operating costs, fuelled the growth.

A dividend of 7.25p for the six months to mid-May was declared.

Sir Patrick Meaney, the chairman, said: "This year should show further profitable growth."

Mr Douglas Yates is taking on group responsibility for special projects, strategic planning and corporate development. He will be replaced as finance director by Mr Nigel Turnbull who joined Rank from the oil company, Tricentrol.

Operating margins at the businesses managed by Rank slipped from 13.4 per cent to 13 per cent. This was primarily caused by a poor performance from the Precision Industries division where demand for metrology equipment by United States and Japanese customers fell by 30 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

About 1.5 million holidays have been booked through the group this year, marginally below the previous year's figure before taking into account the closure of a Burtins Centre.

The removal of tax incentives to film makers has made Britain an unattractive venue so Rank has cut back its services to the film and television industry with a consequential effect on profits.

Rank has stepped up its capital expenditure programme. In the past, an annual spend of about £25 million was not atypical but in the first half of the present year the group has already spent £100 million.

Tempus, page 24

B&C comes back for Mercantile

By Cliff Feltham

British & Commonwealth, the fast-moving financial group, yesterday launched a £500 million agreed takeover bid for Mercantile House, the financial services group created by Mr John Barkshire — only days after walking away from the deal and sending the shares tumbling on the stock market.

But last night the Takeover Panel said it was satisfied both sides had behaved correctly.

Mr John Gunn, the chairman of British & Commonwealth, is mounting the bid to seize Mercantile's huge US Oppenheimer fund management business, which will slot alongside his own Gartmore fund.

The rest of Mercantile House is up for sale — with the French bank Credit Lyonnais agreeing to pay more than £75 million for Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, Mercantile's stockbroking arm.

British & Commonwealth's offer values the Mercantile House shares at 519p, prompting the market price to rise 46p to 534p.

On Monday the shares collapsed 57p when Mercantile House said bid talks had been terminated.

Yesterday, Mr John Barkshire, chairman of Mercantile House, said the announcement had been made because the offer had been formally withdrawn on Sunday night.

"One has to do what is technically right in the circumstances," he said. Mr

Gunn said he had gone away to "see if we were still comfortable to proceed. We needed a little more time."

Mr Gunn would not put a figure on how much he expected to raise from the proposed break-up. He is looking for buyers for Mercantile's money-broking business, MW Marshall — because of a likely conflict of interest with his own Exco operation — as well as its government securities subsidiary, William Street Group.

He had made the bid solely to acquire Oppenheimer, which manages \$10 billion (£6.1 billion) of mutual funds — with £700 million in British unit trusts and money funds.

Together they will manage about £10 billion, compared with £3.5 billion under management by Gartmore. He expected to end up acquiring Oppenheimer, after selling off the rest of Mercantile House, "at a price we are entirely confident we can live with for a fund management group of that quality." British & Commonwealth is offering two of its shares and preference stock for every three Mercantile House shares.

The sale of Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank makes it part of one of the world's leading banks. Credit Lyonnais, which has been keen for some time to break into the London securities market, operates more than 2,400 domestic branches and has an international network in 70 countries.



Link-up: John Barkshire (left) and John Gunn yesterday

Economic upturn continues

Payment from Gas aids PSBR

By Our Economics Editor

There was another large repayment by the public sector in June because of privatization receipts from the second call on British Gas shares.

Adding the June repayment of £800 million to figures for the previous two months, the public sector borrowing requirement for the first quarter of the financial year amounted to only £600 million compared with £2.2 billion in the same period last year.

The difference is mainly accounted for by a different distribution through the year of privatization receipts. In the first three months proceeds totalled £2.4 billion compared with £1.1 billion in the same period last year so the PSBR excluding privatization was about £300 million lower than last year at £3 billion.

The figures nevertheless confirmed the view in the markets that the PSBR may turn out lower in 1987-88 than the forecast £4 billion.

Mr Stephen Bell of Morgan Grenfell commented: "For the third consecutive month the figures are better than expected. The PSBR for the year is either going to be £4 billion if one is pessimistic or less than £4 billion if one is optimistic."

In the gilt-edged market prices fell initially on the big increase in average earnings in May which was announced at the same time. But a closer look at the earnings figures, helped by the low PSBR and the strength of sterling later produced a recovery with prices ending about 1/4 point up on the day. The pound's effective exchange rate index closed at 73.5 with the rate for the mark at DM2.9940.

Public spending appears to have remained under control. Supply expenditure was £8.3 billion in June and £25.9 billion in the first three months, which was about 4 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Jobless total falls to 2.93 million

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The steady fall in unemployment continued last month as new figures showed an acceleration in the number of jobs being created. The seasonally-adjusted total of those out of work dropped by 27,000 to 2.93 million.

Increases in average earnings continued at a high level in May, but fears of inflation and falling competitiveness were tempered by strong growth in productivity.

The drop in unemployment is the twelfth consecutive monthly fall bringing the unadjusted total down by 81,000 to 2.91 million. Unemployment fell in all regions with the biggest falls recorded in Wales, the West Midlands and the North West.

Although the drop in the seasonally adjusted total in June was smaller than the previous month, the average change over three months has accelerated since the beginning of the year suggesting an increasingly better outlook.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, said: "The jobs position is now

better than for many years. As well as the fall in unemployment there has been a growth of 250,000 jobs between March 1986 and March 1987. Vacancies are up by 27 per cent on a year ago. And productivity is at its highest for over 3 years. In other words unemployment is falling without a return to the overmanning of the past."

The Government's employment measures account for relatively little of the 287,000 fall in the numbers out of work during the past twelve months. A total of 382,000 people were on Government schemes in May, excluding Youth Training Schemes and Job Training Schemes, but that number had increased by only 26,400 in a year.

Those on the schemes include longer term unemployed who joined as a result of interviews under the Government's Restart scheme. But there is thought to be a rather larger number who as a result of the interviews have left the register. Buoyancy in the economy has been the main reason.

Late rush lifts BAA profit to 45p

By Ray Heath

A last minute surge of applications for shares in BAA sealed the success of the latest Government privatization yesterday. Encouraged by strongly rising share prices, thousands of investors decided to put in last minute entries.

With more than 2 million applications for the fixed price shares offered at 245p each, the offer closed at 10.00am, heavily oversubscribed.

The opening price set by Cleveland Securities, the grey market operator, which started trading one minute later, was 142.5p — a profit of 42.5p on the first instalment of £1. This later moved up to 145p which values the fully paid shares at 287.5p. This instant profit is for institutions only, and the minimum amount the licensed dealer will trade in is 25,000 shares.

The level of response will mean each application at the fixed price will have to be heavily scaled down if a ballot is to be avoided. About 230 million shares were available for the fixed price offer to the public, out of 500 million being sold, so even the minimum amount of 150 might have to be reduced.

"If we can avoid a ballot, we will do so," said Mr John Matthews of County NatWest, advisers to the issue.

A ballot would not reflect the Government's wish to widen the pool of small shareholders.

Between 60,000 and 100,000 bids were estimated to have been made for the 125 million shares being sold by tender, and while early indications suggest that prices offered were higher than had been expected when the prospectus was published, County NatWest said there was no evidence of any "silly" bids.

"Although we didn't know what to expect, we are pleased with the way the tender has worked. As markets moved on, the tenders bids have moved up and it has worked well for the Government and produced quite a lot of extra money," said Mr Matthews.

The seven London receiving centres were besieged with saturated share-buyers, braving the morning downpour to lodge their applications.

Watching developments was Sir Norman Payne, the BAA chairman, who said: "It is going very well indeed."

Well enough, according to a spokesman for BAA, formerly known as the British Airports Authority. For there to be disappointment if the response to the issue did not match that of Rolls-Royce, which was over-subscribed nine times.

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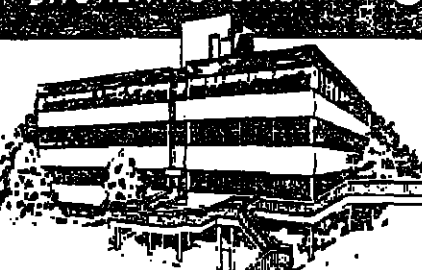
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Securities watchdog aims to keep members in line

By Lawrence Lever

The Securities Association (S.A.), which will be responsible for policing vast sections of the domestic and international securities business transacted from London, yesterday published its detailed rules for intending members.

The rules form part of its application submitted on Wednesday to the Securities and Investments Board, the overseer of the new investor protection law enshrined in the Financial Services Act. The SIB has to recognize TSA as one of the five self-regulating organizations, or SROs, which will police the new investor protection regime laid down by the Act. TSA is the third SRO to apply for recognition.

TSA will govern businesses and individuals dealing in a broad range of securities — such as domestic and foreign equities and bonds, gilts and Eurobonds — and many types of options and futures contracts.

It will also be able to authorize firms' private client investment management operations and, to the extent that it falls within the new regime, it will be the SRO responsible for corporate finance.

TSA was born out of the merger last year between the Stock Exchange and the International Securities Regulatory Organization. TSA is primarily responsible for regulating the relationship between investment businesses and their clients.



Large: 'good argument' for phasing in certain rules

The International Stock Exchange, the other product of the merger, will be responsible for ensuring an orderly market in which investment businesses can be conducted. Its responsibilities include the Sqa system, insider dealing and producing rules for market dealings.

TSA rules published yesterday are aimed at ensuring that all its ultimate membership are honest, competent and solvent. With this aim they govern applications for membership, conduct of busi-

ness rules, and capital adequacy requirements, as well as procedures for discipline, complaints and arbitration of disputes.

Mr Andrew Large, the chairman of TSA, said yesterday that there was "a good argument" for phasing in certain rules, rather than seeking to have them all in place around the end of this year when the Government hopes to bring the Act into effect.

The rules represent the first attempt to impose a rigid

regulatory framework on the international capital operations of investment businesses — such as Eurobond dealing and issuing.

Both firms and individuals alike must satisfy the "fit and proper" test laid down by TSA if they are to continue in business.

Significantly, TSA has adopted a wide-ranging test which will allow it considerable discretion on who it accepts as members. Some of the more controversial firms and individuals are likely to fail the requirement that they be of "good reputation and character".

They include a general prohibition against a firm levying unreasonable charges on its customers. TSA members must also provide a full disclosure of their charges.

There is a free conciliation system provided in the case of complaints, as well as an arbitration procedure which costs £50 to trigger.

TSA is also empowered to order firms to dismantle "Chinese walls" where these are patently not working. However, they do not prevent the market-making arm of an integrated securities house from adjusting its position in a stock, ahead of a circular from the research department.

They ban personal excessive gifts in return for business, and limit the extent to which one firm can provide another with "soft dollar" services, such as research or screen facilities.

STC denies reports of ITT stake sale

By Our City Staff

Lord Keith of Castleacre, the chairman of STC, yesterday firmly stamped on reports that ITT, the American industrial conglomerate, may finally be about to sell its remaining 24 per cent stake in its electronics and telecommunications components group.

ITT has been lightening its interest in STC and has never masked its willingness to end its links with the company.

Reports in the City yesterday suggested ITT had invited bids from a handful of brokers for the right to take on its full 131 million share stake and distribute it in smaller parcels. At yesterday's improved STC price of 329p, ITT's holding would fetch more than £430 million and would mark Britain's biggest bought deal.

But Lord Keith said: "There is no intention on ITT's part to syndicate these shares, nor have they approached any securities houses to do so. We have an agreement with them that they will not sell them in a manner or to a party that is not agreeable to us."

Mr Marcus Chorley, electronics analyst at Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker, said it would make sense for ITT to divest itself of its remaining stake in STC, with a share placing the most likely way. He doubted whether ITT would sell its stake to another industrial company looking for a bid platform.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Prospect of a private less efficient monolith

No one has argued with greater persuasiveness and persistence for a second British international airline than Sir Adam Thomson whose courage and skills have kept British Caledonian in the air and mainly in the black far longer than even his ardent admirers dared hope. When British Airways wallowed in bloated complacency, the tartan, always smiling B-Cal restored our flagging faith in British commercial aviation.

A Conservative Government, as you would expect, repeatedly expressed its belief in the practical virtues of competition but high principles have occasionally been sacrificed. When it came to the issue of privatizing British Airways the Government did not hesitate. A large reallocation of routes in 1984 which might have set B-Cal on course to becoming a serious rival to BA, and an important international carrier, but denied BA's revenues was deemed not politic.

The consequences of the Government's priorities (to be fair privatization has shaken much of the sloth out of BA and it is now a much more responsive as well as profitable and efficient airline) have now landed on the desks of Sir Gordon Borrie at the Office of Fair Trading and Lord Young of Giffarth at the Department of Trade and Industry. The howls of protest that have already gone up against reinforcing BA's elephantine power are not motivated purely by self-interest. Old habits die hard, particularly those of monopolists, and it is not hard to see BA's taking advantage on domestic and certain international routes of B-Cal's removal as a competitor for our custom.

In a resigned verdict on the inevitable in 1984 the Civil Aviation Authority expressed its concern "that, given the strength of and many advantages that British Airways has been endowed with, this country might willy-nilly find itself with one privately-owned but less efficient monolith at the end of the day."

That prospect is now with us. But three points have to be borne in mind. First, while it is true that BA, with B-Cal under its wing, would have more monopolistic clout on internal and short-haul routes, its position in the world aviation business would not be enormously strengthened vis-a-vis its major rivals. It would certainly not have anything like a monopoly, only an opportunity on certain important routes to compete more effectively with the other sky heavyweights.

Second, there is not the remotest chance of building a significant second British international airline.

Third B-Cal is in the sort of financial straits from which it is not easy to recover let alone to climb high.

The 1984 review, which left BA's pre-

eminent position virtually untouched, was a triumph for the aggressive lobbying of the irrepressible Lord King, who has now taken on a third lease of life. It was also the end of the concept of a second force advanced in 1969 by the Edwards Committee which first took wing with the merging a year later of British United and Caledonian Airways to form British Caledonian.

The short political shrift given to B-Cal has been compounded by problems of obtaining remittances from African countries like Nigeria, the Libyan bombings and the fall in oil prices which has hit traffic on B-Cal's Saudi and Houston routes. In the year to October 31, 1986 the B-Cal group returned a pre-tax loss of £19.3 million. The writing which had been on the wall since 1984 was thus heavily underlined in red ink while between the lines were the financial implications of Sir Adam's expensive decision to order from Airbus Industrie seven A320 aircraft.

In January B-Cal started talking with Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group, first on merging the companies' short-haul operations, subsequently on a full merger. These discussions were later terminated without agreement because of divisions within the B-Cal boardroom and Mr Goodman's idea of terms. At the same time it was apparent that B-Cal's major shareholders, led by 31 with 42 per cent, pressing for a merger or some other decisive response to B-Cal's growing difficulties. Sir Adam has continued to look for avenues of escape and his talks with Alitalia, and with US airlines, seem to have spurred Lord King into action.

For a man with problem cards in his hand, Sir Adam has played a remarkable game. In addition to losses in the profit and loss account B-Cal's latest balance sheet shows borrowing of £263 million, with perhaps a further £42 million of off-balance sheet leasing commitments. In comparison net assets are £97 million.

The deal will probably push up BA's debt to equity ratio from well under half to more than 60 per cent. That may not appear to be desirable, but by international airline standards it is by no means high.

Another way of looking at the price of £237 million that BA is giving 13 per cent of its equity for a 17 per cent addition to turnover. With some hard work that extra turnover could be stretched to 20 per cent or more. Nevertheless, BA will have to work hard to justify the price which Sir Adam has wrung from them.

Perhaps £45 million or more of costs and savings might be extracted in the course of a year or two. So after a year when the impact of B-Cal would be, if not negative then broadly neutral, BA could look forward to a strongly positive contribution to earnings per share.

Increased exports of car parts urged

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The low pound has given the British motor component industry last "window of opportunity" to re-establish itself in foreign markets, the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Committee said yesterday.

To seize that opportunity, however, the industry had to put its house rapidly in order and the Government had to give it substantial help.

The committee's report says British car production is recovering but this would not be enough to sustain a domestic components industry employing 450,000 people. Less than 10 per cent of its output was exported and that figure had to be increased.

The committee, which visited several European car manufacturers during its inquiry, found that although they wanted to do business with British suppliers, the suppliers

were not taking advantage of the low pound.

Car makers were increasingly reducing the number of suppliers and demanding from them whole systems rather than individual parts. Only those component manufacturers able to conduct research and set up near their buyers would survive.

The committee said the Government should offer 100 per cent tax allowances against new research and back research into areas monopolized by foreign firms.

Trade and Industry Committee: The UK Motor Components Industry: HMSO £15.10. Jaguar cars achieved record world-wide sales of 22,184 saloons and high performance sports cars in the first six months of this year. A production record of 23,663 cars was also set, 7 per cent up on the same period last year.

Logica chief steps aside for deputy

By Joe Joseph

Mr Len Taylor, the managing director of Logica, the computer software company on the brink of financial ruin two years ago following its ill-fated attempt to make and sell an all-British word processing system, will hand over the reins to his deputy, Mr David Mann, at the end of September.



Taylor: staying on the board as a non-executive director

Mr Taylor, 51, who has since steered the company back to health and pretax profits of the first half of this year of £4.2 million, resigned on Wednesday.

Logica's founder in 1969, he became managing director three years later and nursed the company to a public flotation in 1983. He will remain on Logica's board as a non-executive director.

"I have felt for some time that I would like a change. In particular, I would like to take a break," Mr Taylor said yesterday. "The fact that I am staying on until after the preliminary results are announced in September indicates, I hope, that there are no nasty surprises in store."

Mr Mann, 43, the deputy managing director and Logica's head of operations, does not foresee major changes in the company's style

Accurate Met reports 'worth £500m a year'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Accurate weather forecasting is worth £500 million a year to British industry, says Mr David Houghton, marketing director of the Met Office at Bracknell, Berkshire.

He told the World Meteorological Organization in Reading, Berkshire, that Central Statistical Office figures showed the value of anticipating the weather.

Correct forecasts could save the retail and distribution industry about £122 million a

year, construction £76 million, farming £60 million, energy industries £64 million and consumer manufacturing £60 million.

Commerce and industry was benefiting from better weather information because of improved communications.

The Met Office now had a wider range of specialist and general weather services for areas such as agriculture, construction and aviation.

Rockware Group in £24.1 million buy

By Our City Staff

Rockware Group, the glass and plastics manufacturer, is buying three private printing and packaging companies for £24.15 million.

They are Ken Stokes, which makes and sells business forms; South Wales Packaging, a specialist manufacturer of high quality plastic bags; and Form Print, a producer of computer listing paper, of which Rockware is acquiring 80 per cent.

The deal is to be financed via a vendor placing of 24.15 million new Rockware shares at £1 each. There is, however, a clawback facility for existing shareholders for the 17.2 million new shares not being retained by the vendors.

Aggregate year profits for the three companies to end-December 1987 are warranted at not less than £2.8 million. Rockware's share price leaped 19p to 130p

Harvard's Wilmot to quit?

Shares in licensed dealer Harvard Securities were suspended on the Over-the-Counter Market yesterday at about 45p, pending an announcement later today. Tom Wilmot, the firm's colourful chairman, was for once unavailable for comment and all compliance officer Tom Vallance would say was: "They have been suspended because of negotiations that may lead to a change in share ownership involving an existing shareholder." But the inside word in the City is that Wilmot, who applied 18 months ago for Harvard's membership of the Stock Exchange, is about the resign as chairman and surrender control of the business in a last-ditch attempt to persuade the reluctant Exchange to admit his firm. He is believed to have received an offer for his 37 per cent shareholding although it is not yet known from whom. British Car Auctions, run by David Wickins, recently took a 9 per cent stake in Harvard and the company has, I hear, also been in negotiations with AJ Bekhor, a broking firm staffed almost entirely by half-commission men. Other shareholders include New York investment bank DH Blair with 16.5 per cent and Harvard's senior dealing director John Casey with 6.6 per cent. The Stock Exchange is close to reaching its decision on Harvard's future but Vallance quips: "We don't expect them to welcome us with open arms."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A rocket for the boss

An incentive prize for the executive who already has everything? For just £31,000 bookings are now being taken for a journey into space in January 1993, incorporating up to eight orbits of earth. Organised by Special Expedition in Seattle, with Twickers World in Twickenham the sole UK agents, the first departure from a US launch site is expected to be in October 1992 — but the first

three months, with one flight a week, are already fully booked. Twickers World tell me they have already taken four bookings — \$5,000 deposit a time — for the seven day round trip, which includes a rigorous training course. Each shuttle will carry 20 passengers and they will spend up to 12 hours in space, experiencing weightlessness and eating two meals whilst in orbit.

High profile

Neil Durden-Smith, the former BBC presenter and producer better known for being married to Judith Chalmers, is to be the executive chairman of the Pall Mall Partnership, the new grouping of six small but personable PR firms. Its



Marking time

So sorry are Hill Samuel staff to see their old-Harrowian group chief executive Christopher Castleman go that they have even been talking about honouring him with a traditional gold watch presentation ceremony — Castleman, aged 46, had been with the firm for 24 years. He joined merchant bank M Samuel way back in 1963, two years before it merged with Philip Hill. One company wit has, however, been heard to suggest that a gift of a cuckoo clock might be more appropriate than a timepiece.

Bridging that gap

Lord Stokes of Leyland, who was chairman of British Leyland until 1975, and its president until 1979, certainly doesn't practise what he preaches. Stokes, now chairman of Britain's biggest car distributor, Dutton Forshaw, was extolling the virtues of life "up north" at the opening of Forshaw's new £1 million dealership facility in Preston the other day. Remembering his heady days of youth — he began his working life as a Leyland apprentice in Lancashire 37 years ago and married a Lancashire lass — he said that they often talked about the north-south divide when he was a lad, although he himself had never really believed in it. "They used to say that south of Wigan was nothing but overheads," he said, adding on the other hand, that "a lot of people think the world ends at Watford when the industrial conurbation that surrounds Preston is probably the most active in the country." Still a deputy lieutenant of Lancashire, he nevertheless lives in Poole, on the south coast, and resides for two or three months of each year in sunny Florida. But still, at the ripe old age of 74, perhaps he deserves to do as he preaches.

● A reader from Wiltshire who feels unable to identify with either yuppies or dinkies has come up with a new sub-species: Sinks — single income, numerous kids.

Carol Leonard

The Rank Organisation

Interim Results — 1987

	28 weeks ending 16.5.87	28 weeks ending 17.5.86
Profit before tax	£90.1m	£70.2m
Earnings per share	22.9p	19.7p
Ordinary dividend	7.25p	6.25p



The Interim Report will be posted to shareholders on 23rd July 1987. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, The Rank Organisation Plc, 6 Connaught Place, London W2 2EZ.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Persimmon	Building/Roads	
2	BPC (na)	Paper/Print/Adv	
3	Woolworth (na)	Draper/Stores	
4	Countrywide	Building/Roads	
5	Sound Diffusion	Electricals	
6	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
7	Tomkowiak	Textiles	
8	Empire Stores	Draper/Stores	
9	Assoc Newspaper	Newspaper/Pub	
10	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
11	Coates Bros	Chemicals/Plas	
12	Gen S R	Draper/Stores	
13	Bus Mortgage	Banks/Discount	
14	P-E International	Electricals	
15	Copper (na)	Paper/Print/Adv	
16	Liter (FIC)	Building/Roads	
17	Rural East (na)	Electricals	
18	AAH	Industrial A-D	
19	Anglo Nordic	Industrial A-D	
20	Pleasance	Leisure	
21	Type Text TV	Cinema/TV	
22	Erith	Building/Roads	
23	Dwell	Industrial A-D	
24	Benchmark	Banks/Discount	
25	Brown Shipley	Banks/Discount	
26	Pitch Design	Paper/Print/Adv	
27	Sci TV	Cinema/TV	
28	Black (Peter)	Industrial A-D	
29	Laine (J)	Building/Roads	
30	Trest	Building/Roads	
31	Morgan Grenfell	Banks/Discount	
32	Whesoc	Industrial S-Z	
33	Midland (na)	Banks/Discount	
34	Beit Bros	Building/Roads	
35	New London Oil	Oil & Gas	
36	Coca Cola	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	Galinst (na)	Breweries	
38	London & Man	Insurance	
39	Brown (N)	Draper/Stores	
40	Woodside	Oil & Gas	
41	HTV N/V	Cinema/TV	
42	Manders	Building/Roads	
43	Next (na)	Draper/Stores	
44	Wagon Ind	Industrial S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

BRITISH FUNDS

1987	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

116	107	Truss	12%	1962	113	104	11.2
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
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106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6
106	92	Truss	10%	1992	103	94	9.6

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

111%	95%	Each	10%	1997	108%	++	8.7
101%	86%	Truss	8%	1957	98%	++	8.9
101%	96%	Truss	8%	1957	98%	++	8.9
101%	96%	Truss	8%	1957	98%	++	8.9
89%	77%	Truss	6%	1955-98	85%	++	11.0
100%	94%	Each	94%	1958	100%	++	7.8
145%	128%	Truss	15%	1998	141%	++	11.0
100%	94%	Each	94%	1958	100%	++	7.8
100%	93%	Truss	9%	1959	103%	++	9.1
124%	108%	Each	12%	1998	120%	++	9.6
111%	98%	Truss	10%	1998	109%	++	9.6
111%	97%	Conv	10%	1985	107%	++	9.3
96%	94%	Truss	8%	2000	96%	++	10.2
131%	116%	Truss	13%	2000	127%	++	8.0
100%	94%	Each	94%	2000	99%	++	8.0
110%	94%	Truss	10%	2001	106%	++	9.4
100%	92%	Conv	94%	2001	105%	++	9.7
134%	122%	Truss	15%	1998-01	130%	++	10.7

OVER FIFTY YEARS

103%	97%	Each	9%	2002	98%	++	9.0
103%	97%	Each	9%	2002	98%	++	9.0
103%	97%	Each	9%	2002	98%	++	9.0
103%	97%	Each	9%	2002	98%	++	9.0

UNDATED

111% 97% Truss	10%	2004	108%	50%	6.0
99% 51% Fend	3%	2004	104%	50%	6.0
100% 50% Truss	97%	2004	104%	50%	9.1
100% 93% Conch	91%	2005	104%	50%	9.1
110% 89% Exch	16%	2005	113%	50%	9.1
122% 110% Truss	12%	2005-06	105%	50%	9.7
91% 89% Truss	8%	2002-09	91%	50%	9.7
110% 90% Conch	11%	2007	122%	50%	9.6
122% 111% Truss	11%	2007	122%	50%	9.6
91% 86% Truss	8%	2007	96%	50%	9.6
142 121% Truss	13%	2004-08	101%	50%	8.9
104% 97% Truss	9%	2008	101%	50%	8.7
100% 90% Conch	9%	2008	101%	50%	8.7
101% 100% Conch	9%	2011	101%	50%	8.7
69% 66% Truss	5%	2012-15	86%	50%	8.7
100% 97% Truss	10%	2012-15	130%	50%	9.2
134% 117% Exch	12%	2013-17	130%	50%	9.2

UNDATED

45% 36% Conch	4%	44%	50%	9.0
54% 43% Wdr	4%	44%	50%	8.9

INDEX-LINKED

131	124	Truss	11	25	131	1	2.0
117	108	Truss	11	25	117	1	2.0
99	83	Truss	11	25	89	1	2.0
129	117	Truss	11	25	129	1	2.0
131	100	Truss	11	25	105	1	2.3
99	83	Truss	11	25	104	1	2.7
113	102	Truss	11	25	106	1	3.2
127	97	Truss	11	25	106	1	3.1
100	85	Truss	11	25	88	1	3.1
95	85	Truss	11	25	88	1	3.1
103	82	Truss	11	25	89	1	3.2
101	80	Truss	11	25	80	1	2.9
86	78	Truss	11	25	80	1	2.9

1987			Price	Grass	Yr
High	Low	Company	Per	On	
			One <td>Change</td> <td></td>	Change	

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

246	178	Bank Of Ireland	33	15					
14	11	Bank Leumi	340	360	15	17.0			
634	340	Bank Paribas	65	15		22.6			
616	340	Bank Of Scotland	609	615	+1	23.6			
66	56	Bank (N) Walz	73	63		23.8			
650	484	Barclays (N)	61	94	+8	2.2			
91	91	Benchmark	560	575	+15	13.7			
603	563	Brown Shipley	110	120	+10	27.6			
638	581	Capital Alliance	445	455	+10	2.7			
483	280	CBS Morgan	76			6.3			
75	44	Cadell				1361			
39	20	Credit Montanaro	104		-14	206			
100	100	Comoco	57		-1	206			
111	82	Commerzbank	57		-24	206			
288	191	Deutsche Bank	67	69	+2	1.4			
70	70	Equity & Co	353	365	+12	9.6			
359	260	First Nat Finance	363	393	+30	23.5			
412	260	Foreign Ltd	104	104		23.5			
112	88	Gibson	186		+2	11.2			
328	265	Hambros	167	165	-2	20.3			

ELECTRICALS

434	283		103	106		4.4
108	75		523	525	1 - 5'	9.7
639	306	Memory Imp				9.2
179	122	- Do 6" A	178	179		37.0
706	568	Memord (adj)	640	645	44	14.4
495	360	Memord Brantel	495	498	+6	
218	135	Rel Post Br	213	217	+2	

BREWERIES

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000

FINANCE AND LAND

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000

FOODS

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000

CINEMA AND TV

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	8,000
100% 50% Truss	100	99.5	100	100	0.5	11.9	

MONEY & GOLD

Base Rates %																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				</
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TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Overnight Cash %		10/17/87		10/17/87		10/17/87		10/17/87	
1 week 5%+5%	8 month 5%+5%	1 week 5%+5%	8 month 5%+5%	1 week 5%+5%	8 month 5%+5%	1 week 5%+5%	8 month 5%+5%	1 week 5%+5%	8 month 5%+5%
3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%
Local Authority Deposits (%)									
2 days 5%	7 days 5%	2 days 5%	7 days 5%	2 days 5%	7 days 5%	2 days 5%	7 days 5%	2 days 5%	7 days 5%
1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%
Local Authority Bonds (%)									
1 month 5%+5%	2 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	2 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	2 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	2 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	2 month 5%+5%
3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%
1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%
Sterling Cds (%)									
1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	1 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%
3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%	3 month 5%+5%	12 month 5%+5%
Dollar Cds (%)									
1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75
1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75	1 month 6.70-6.65	3 month 6.60-6.75

First Dealings		Last Dealings		Last Dealings		For Settlement	
July 6		July 17		October 6		October 18	
Call options were taken out on: KIO, Drilling, Canadian Pacific, NEI, NEI & Spencer, Armco, United States B Cayer Nominats Group, Bremkrah, Acoba, Property Trust, 8 Prast, Control Seal, Kellogg Trust, Petrogen Petroleum, Lanza, Borthwick, GKN, Astra Ltd, Harcourt Trust, Petrogen Petroleum, Lanza, Borthwick, GKN, Astra Ltd, Harcourt Gulf, Hawtin, Eagle Trust, Petroleum, New London Oil, Sips, Began, Eagle Gulf, Hawtin, Eagle Trust, Petroleum, New London Oil, Sips, Began, Eagle Central Pacific, Rock, Timco, Costant, Telephone Trunks, Fitza Group Rods-Royce, AE Engineering, Tusker Resources, Central & Shearwood, Bra Channel, Scottish & Newcastle, Middle East, Central Warty, Bra Channel, Scottish & Newcastle, Middle East, Central Warty, Bra Alpha Soft Drinks, Norwalk, Capital, BAI, Ultramar, GEC, Goss Durrant, Oron Gulf, Bula Resources, Scatto Holdings, British Airways, THF. Put & Call Scottish & Newcastle.							

FOREIGN EXCHANGES	
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The nurses' great crusader

A century of providing personal insurance and investment services to health-care professionals is celebrated this year by the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses

For Henry Burdett, the founder of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, the light from Florence Nightingale's lamp has been too bright. According to Dr Christopher Maggs, the RNPFN's historian, Burdett has been pushed into the shadows by the nursing heroine of the Crimean War.

Dr Maggs says: "The result is that generally we know little about a man who made such a contribution to society. Certainly, the founding of the nurses' pension fund in 1887 was among his proudest achievements."

Henry Burdett was born in 1847, the son of an Anglican clergyman in Leicestershire, and throughout his life remained a devout member of the church. He started work in 1863, at a bank in Birmingham. But five years later he took his first job in the field he was to make his own: hospital administration.

In 1873, aged 26, he left his post as secretary of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, and became a medical student at Guy's Hospital, London, where he passed his examinations but failed to complete the practical course.

While still a student, he married Helen Shute, a doctor's daughter, and accepted the post of secretary at the Seamen's Hospital in Greenwich. He drew on his experiences there and at Birmingham to prepare a paper on hospital administration for presentation to the British Social Science Association in 1881.

As a direct result, the Hospitals Association - which became a leading influence in the development of modern hospital management - was formed in 1884. Burdett eventually became its vice-president.

It was the desperate plight of one nurse from the Seamen's Hospital that led to the establishment of a pension fund for nurses. The nurse had caught typhus fever from a patient who attacked her while he was in a delirium.

Slowly she recovered, but was unable to return to work, and survived only by the charity of her



Miss Katie Martin, at 96 one of the oldest members of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, presents flowers to the Queen Mother at yesterday's St James's Palace reception celebrating the centenary of the fund

friends and a small gratuity from the hospital. As funds dwindled, her circumstances became desperate and she was sent to the workhouse as a pauper.

By this time, Burdett had made another career change: he had joined the Stock Exchange. However, his interest in hospital matters had not diminished and, being greatly moved by the story of the nurse, he made extensive surveys of nurses' pension rights and conditions of service. He saw the need for urgent action.

Burdett enlisted the support of leading City figures, and in 1887 the National Pension Fund for Nurses and Hospital Officials was launched. Barely a year later, the Prince of Wales, a friend of Burdett's, became the organization's first royal patron.

Burdett's researches had uncovered a picture of hardship and suffering. With no state and very few occupational retirement schemes, the only provisions for the old age or sickness of nurses before 1887 were pensions from charities or grace-and-favour payments from the larger voluntary hospitals.

These payments could often be made only to nurses who had worked in the same institution for at least 10 years, but few qualified: nurses, then as now, were known for their geographical and career mobility.

A nurse's life in the 1880s was hazardous: exposure to the risk of infection and the physical demands of the work were often disabling.

For most, nursing was also a precarious career. Working in the private labour market, rather than for state hospitals or institutions, unemployment was high. The condition of the nation's nurses was something Burdett was determined to improve.

He proposed the formation of a mutual insurance society within which, by combining resources, nurses could make provision for their own needs.

Because of the limited financial resources of the typical 19th century nurse, the pension fund had to make every penny work to generate profits, with an absolute minimum being spent on administration. These same principles motivate the fund's managers today.

Nothing could distract Burdett from his abiding interest in health administration - not even his enthusiasm for playing the tables at Monte Carlo (where he was said to have broken the bank three times in one night) or his friendship with the playboy Prince of Wales - and in 1891 he wrote a four-volume study, *Hospitals and Asylums of the World*.

"Burdett's life was a snapshot of Victorian society," says Dr Maggs. "He was involved in many of the key issues of his day."

He was active in the reform of taxation, he chaired committees on the problems of inner cities and was involved in the question of Home Rule for Ireland and even played a part in the refitting of the Russian navy.

Burdett was also a publisher. He owned the Scientific Press, which produced medical and nursing texts. The company also published a periodical, *The Hospital*, and in 1897 it launched the *Nursing Mirror*, with Burdett as its editor-in-chief.

But if Burdett has become the

forgotten man of nursing and hospital administration, in his lifetime his contribution was recognized. Queen Victoria honoured him in 1897, and King Edward VII bestowed a further honour in 1908.

Sir Henry Burdett, KCB, KCVO, died in London in 1920. A man who had been one of his opponents, Viscount Knutsford, wrote as a tribute: "We have often cut each other's throat but we never touched an artery."

Today, the RNPFN continues the work started by Burdett and his colleagues. From the 19th century's straightforward provision of annuities and sick pay, the fund has become a modern insurance company with a range of financial products, but it is still an enterprise without shareholders. It operates not as a charity but as a mutual company where profits are shared out among policyholders, exactly as Burdett planned.

The fund is marking its centenary year with the slogan: "Founded 100 years ago by health care professionals for health care professionals" - a further tribute to the man whose foresight and energy guaranteed the fund's success.

Tragic tale of Cavell



Not far from the fund's headquarters stands the memorial to Edith Cavell, the British nurse whose heroic exploits in helping hundreds of allied soldiers to escape across German-occupied Belgium led to her arrest and execution by firing squad in 1915.

The short walk from Nurse Cavell's statue in St Martin's Place, just above Trafalgar Square, to the fund's offices in Buckingham Street, brings one to another memorial: the fund's archives, which stand as eloquent testimony to 100 years of caring for nurses and other health-service professionals.

Nurse Cavell has a special place in those archives, but her case typifies the fund's essentially philanthropic attitude to its members.

She was 30 years old when she started her nurse training at the London Hospital and like many later mature entrants to the profession, turned eventually to the fund for help in planning her retirement.

In 1905, she wrote to the fund that she would soon be 40 and wanted to "join the National Pension Fund at once". She took out a policy which would give her a pension at 50, but she decided not to insure against illness.

Two years later, she went to work in Belgium. Then in 1909, she wrote to the fund, "Owing to unexpected circumstances over which I have no control I desire to withdraw the amount of the premiums I have paid into the pension fund at the earliest date possible."

The instruction was then cancelled, by telegram.

The secretary of the fund, who wanted to help Nurse Cavell over any temporary difficulty, wrote to her, offering a loan of £180 at 5 per cent interest. In the event, her policy was not cancelled and the offer of a loan was not taken up.

However, the fund's records show that Nurse Cavell did get behind with the

payment of premiums, and she was often in arrears. The rules demanded the payment of premiums in advance, but the fund's administrators did not seem too concerned to enforce this requirement.

War broke out in August, 1914, and, with the invasion of Belgium, Nurse Cavell soon found herself working in a Red Cross hospital behind enemy lines. Her family were worried for her safety - and for her investment with the fund.

Her brother-in-law, Dr W. Longworth Wainwright, in November, 1914, wrote to the fund asking about her position. The fund's secretary assured him that in no circumstances would Nurse Cavell be treated "harshly". Her sister, the matron of a convalescent home, also wrote to the fund. Eventually, both brother-in-law and sister undertook to pay Nurse Cavell's premiums.

In August, 1915, Nurse Cavell was arrested at her hospital and accused of "spying". As soon as he heard the news, Wainwright wrote to the fund to find out whether there were any outstanding premiums for him to "see to".

Events moved rapidly and tragically for Nurse Cavell. She was summarily tried and sentenced to be shot. Just before the firing squad's fatal volley, on October 12, 1915, Nurse Cavell declared: "Standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

When Wainwright heard of his sister-in-law's execution, he informed the fund. The secretary replied immediately, offering condolences and acknowledging "the terrible shock which you must have sustained on hearing the news".

Under the policy taken out by Nurse Cavell, money became due to her mother. The fund paid out promptly, waiving the usual requirement for formal evidence of death.



The Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses

Registered Office: Burdett House, 15 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6ED. Tel: 01-839 6785

100 years ago, at the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital in Greenwich, a nurse fell victim to typhus fever. She had caught the disease caring for a patient, a Swedish sailor who had attacked her while he was delirious.

Slowly she recovered from her illness, but she was never to work again. Sustained only by the meagre funds which her friends made available, her financial circumstances became desperate.

The Dreadnought's administrator was a Victorian reformer called Henry Burdett. And the desperate plight of this nurse in his own hospital was to inspire a movement aimed at alleviating the financial hardship of any health care professional suffering a similar fate.

In 1887 Sir Henry Burdett, with the co-operation and support of many leading City figures, formed a pension fund for nurses. Barely a year later, the Prince of Wales became the fund's first Royal patron.

Today, under the patronage of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses continues the work which Burdett started, offering nurses and other health providers insurance, pensions and savings plans.

Burdett established the framework in which the RNPFN operates today, not as a charity but as a mutual society where the combined resources of its policy holders are used to generate profits for their own exclusive benefit.

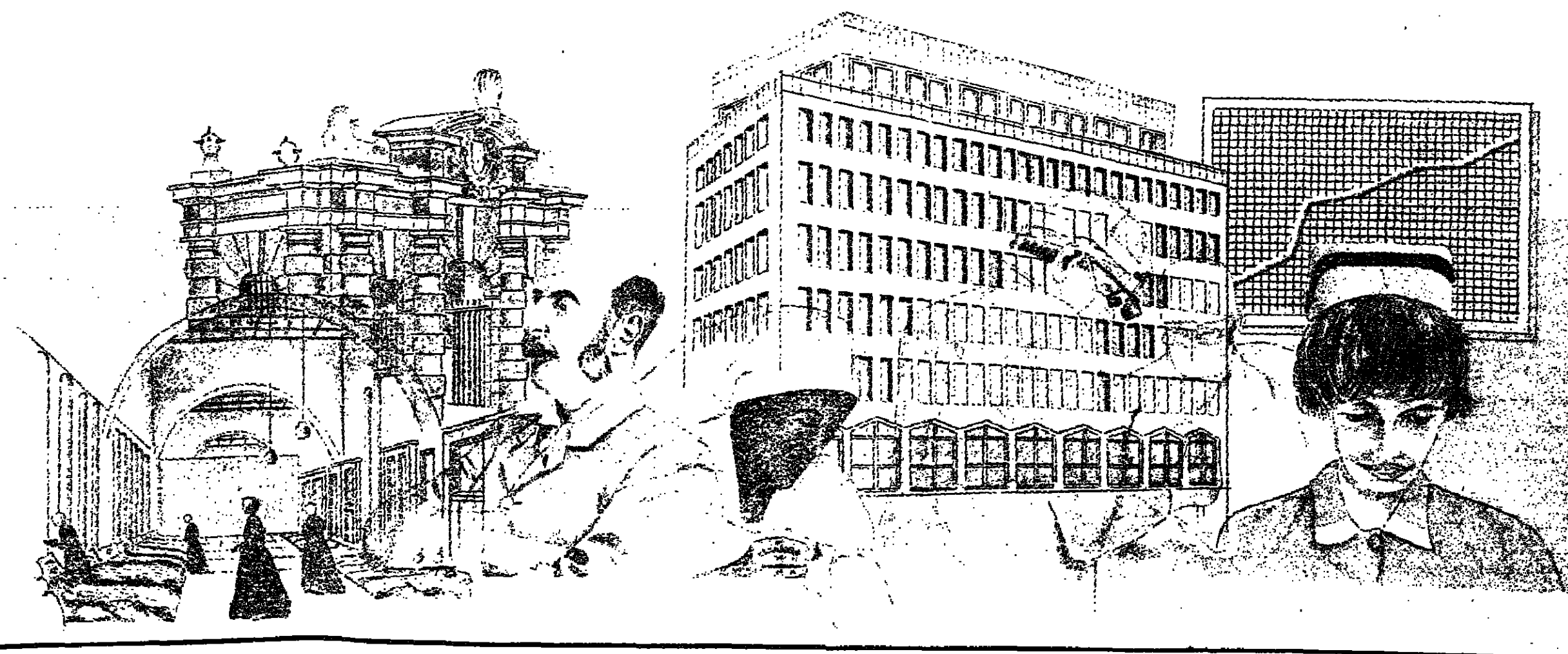
And one hundred years later, assets of more than £300 million, built up through a sound investment performance, are a testament to Burdett's policy.

The RNPFN pays no commission, employs no salesmen and restricts its membership to healthcare professionals and their spouses.

In 1987 such professionals working in health care have different needs from those of a destitute nurse in a Victorian hospital, but their requirement for secure and profitable insurance and investments is just as important.

In this centenary year more than 75,000 policy holders enjoy the exclusive benefits of the RNPFN.

Founded 100 years ago by health care professionals for health care professionals.



NURSING TIMES

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FOCUS

Think of the poor nurses, said Florence Nightingale

Opposition to the establishment of the RNPFN came from some unexpected quarters: Florence Nightingale, *The Lancet* — and the headmaster of Rugby School.

Miss Nightingale wrote to Burdett, refusing her support: "I should feel very unwilling because it would encourage hospitals to lessen the pay which they ought to give to trained nurses or not to raise it."

She thought that if hospitals affiliated to the fund, the contributions they paid would have to come from the nurses' wages bill and this would undermine her aim of establishing nursing as a reasonably-paid profession.

Even after the fund came

into being, she continued to urge Burdett to abandon plans for its development, saying that she was "perfectly certain that the poor nurses did not earn enough to protect themselves."

In May 1888, she wrote a veiled criticism of the fund in her *Annual Letter to Nurses* in *Training at the Nightingale School* "...when there are so many associations... when there is such a dragging of everything before the public, there is some danger of our forgetting that any true nursing work must be quiet work — an individual work."

In the same year, *The Lancet* moved from a cautious welcoming of the fund to

outright hostility, criticizing contribution rates and the promises made to investors as being, respectively, too high and too generous.

At one point it condemned the charitable nature of the fund as an affront to nurses, many of whom were "ladies".

The fund defended itself in the columns of *The Times*, a medium which was being used to mount other attacks. Dr T. Percival, the Head Master of Rugby,

added his name to "A Letter to The Editor" which made an oblique attack on the fund — a mutual society — by arguing the case for the charitable friendly societies.

The letter also included the irrelevant criticism that a

pension from the fund would allow a nurse "to underbid other women in needlework, service, or other occupations for which she may be eminently well-fitted when her work as a hospital nurse is over."

Then as now, friendly societies, though very worthy, could offer nothing like the benefits of the more business-like fund.

In *The Times* of April 6, 1888, the secretary of the fund, Philip Grove, made a reply that effectively dismissed all the critics.

"The nurses," he wrote, "will obtain with perfect safety a larger return from their savings than they could otherwise do."



A marriage of charity and commerce

Nurses make up 80 per cent of the membership of the RNPFN, and it is mainly to them that the fund attributes its success, writes Philippa Toomey. According to Victor West, who has been the fund's chief executive since March 1984, "Nurses have become more financially sophisticated and have shown a growing awareness of the benefits of personal investment."

"Today the fund manages £350 million on behalf of more than 75,000 savers and premium income has risen from £7.5 million in 1980 to more than £30 million this year."

Mr West thinks people turn to the fund because they see it "as giving sound and unbiased advice". In part this is due to the fund's marketing strategy. "When we say no salesmen will call, we mean exactly that," says Mr West. "No one from the fund ever goes 'on the knocker'."

The fund gets its business from advertising in the professional press, by recommendation and from health-care professionals making general inquiries of "their" insurance company. No commission is paid to any intermediary.

Mr West says: "Our direct marketing and mailing is very well developed. We regularly make follow-up contact with our investors to see whether their needs have changed. Certainly, the adoption of more sophisticated marketing techniques in the last five years has boosted business."

Running costs are kept as low as possible. The fund has about 100 staff at its only office — Burdett House; there are no branch offices. After meeting running expenses, all the profits are invested for the benefit of the fund's members. The fund is a mutual company and has no shareholders.

Though most members are nurses, midwives and health visitors are also significant groups.

This year, donations have been made from a specially established celebratory Centenary Fund in proportion to membership: the Royal College of Nursing received £40,000 and the Royal College of Midwives and the Health Visitors' Association £5,000 each. The

money was given by the RNPFN for specific non-political projects chosen by the individual organizations.

"Charity and commerce may seem an odd mix," says Mr West, "but we take a total view of our commitment to health-care professionals."

Everyone who works in the health service is eligible to make use of the fund's services.

"It has been well said that the only person not eligible is the patient," Mr West says. "Such an 'affinity group' means millions are

eligible for membership. We do not see our concentration on health workers as presenting any restriction on our potential for continued growth."

"We have a clear identity, serving the needs of health-care professionals and we do not wish to blur it."

The fund keeps abreast of changes within the working lives of those employed in the health services.

"The fund has close but informal links with organizations such as the Royal College of Nursing and we are

developing links with the Confederation of Health Service Employees and with the National Union of Public Employees as they take more health-service personnel into membership."

The fund now owns 250 commercial properties and takes advice from Gooch and Wagstaff, the surveyors.

"The fund's investment strategy is determined by the council, who bear in mind the nature of the fund's liabilities."

"Decisions about specific invest-

ments in gilts and equities are made by us in-house with advice from Hambros," says Mr West, who keeps an abacus in his cupboard and jokes that it is there as the fund's "fail-safe" computer.

The fund's range of products encompasses life insurance, personal and group pensions and annuities. Performance levels are very attractive: Mr West quotes the example of an RNPFN 10-year bonus-sharing endowment plan, which, based on monthly savings of £25 from January 1977, would have produced £6,570 at the beginning of 1987 — 98 per cent more than saving with a building society would have gained.

Mr West adds: "The fund no longer offers mortgages because the building societies have now become less restrictive, but there was a time when the fund led the way in lending to single women for house purchase."

The fund operates group pension schemes on behalf of employers and in this way provides pensions for about 6,000 people. Personal pensions have always been an important part of the fund's work and today the fund has 12,000 annuitants — 12 of them more than 100 years old — and runs 2,000 personal pension plans.

"The fund," says Mr West, "sees the new pensions legislation as offering an opportunity for significant growth and facilities for additional voluntary contributions will be provided."

He is proud of its standing in the insurance world. "We regularly appear in the 'top ten' league tables of the insurance industry's best performers. And the fund compares favourably with the large mutuals."

Mr West is confident of the future. "There will always be a demand from health-care professionals for a company offering sound value-for-money investments that can be easily understood," he says.

"We deliberately avoid highly sophisticated policies with bells and whistles. Bolt-on goodies have to be paid for and are actually of use to very few people. We intend to stick to sound basic policies."



"We have a clear identity, serving the needs of health-care professionals"

Victor West, chief executive of the fund

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FOCUS

How Queen Victoria caused a war of words

In the summer of 1890, Henry Burdett wrote to the Home Secretary to ask whether Queen Victoria would permit the fund to take the word "Royal" into its title. The following extract from *A Century of Change: The Story of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses*, by Christopher Maggs, tells how this request developed into a battle of wills.

On the 12th July he [Burdett] received a reply informing him that "Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to command that the National Pension Fund for Nurses shall in future be styled the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses". His feelings on receiving this letter must have been very mixed. On the one hand he had the word "Royal", on the other, he had lost the word "National".

Considerable correspondence then ensued between Burdett and the Home Office and Burdett and Marlborough House, where Sir Dighton Probyn, KCB, proved to be an ally. At first it was thought by Probyn to have been an omission (July 21st).

He regarded the permission to use just the word "Royal" tantamount to a refusal to the original request.

He wrote: "For these and other reasons, the adoption of the name you propose would not in our judgement promote the best interests of the Fund, and I fear therefore unless the matter can be reconsidered we must continue to call the Fund 'The National Pension Fund for Nurses'. The Home Office were once again not impressed and wrote to say that their decision was final.

Intense lobbying then took place with Burdett, Probyn and the Prince of Wales all involved in persuading the Home Secretary to change his mind and approach the Queen again on the matter. The issue was finally resolved in Burdett's favour and in a letter from Sir Dighton Probyn received at the offices of the Fund in March, 1891, the Pension Fund was commanded to be henceforth called "The Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses".



HOME HELP
Family picture of Henry Burdett, left, founder of the the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses. Among the assistance the RNPFN gives the nursing profession is the administration of the Fonthill retirement home, right, at Reigate in Surrey. Established in 1912, with charitable donations, it was built as a memorial to King Edward VII. Today, 36 former nurses enjoy the peace, comfort and security of Fonthill. "The nicest thing," said one resident, "is that you can have company when you want it or you can be on your own."



Intense lobbying took place to persuade the Home Secretary to approach the Queen again on the word Royal

On the 23rd he had to report that it had not been, but that the Queen "represents the Nation and that the use of the word National in addition to Royal is something more than superfluous".

Burdett wrote intimating that he had enlisted the support of the Prince of Wales, who thought the two words essential and requested the Queen to consent to their use. However, the Home Office were not impressed and on the 24th July they wrote to tell him that they could not refer the matter to Her Majesty again.

In reply Henry Burdett said that it was impossible to omit the word "National" from the title, not least because of the Fund's constitution and the costs involved in changing it.

When will the job be properly paid?

Sixty years after the foundation of the Royal College of Nursing, it represents 260,000 of the 500,000 in the nursing profession (including auxiliaries and assistants), and the profession is once again, it seems, in a crisis.

Several factors are involved. The first is low pay and a lack of recognition (in terms of pay) of experience, extra training and the responsibilities involved. Common complaints are that nurses find themselves looking after too many sick people with too few staff—a situation both alarming and dangerous—and at the same time they are relegated to doing domestic tasks rather than nursing.

Status is as touchy a subject now as it was in the beginning—doctors frown on the possibility of the nurse-practitioner; nurses feel that auxiliaries and aides can encroach on their nursing duties.

There are grades of staff such as Operating Department Assistants, who work in operating theatres without a nursing qualification. The political pressures on the National Health Service, which is in the process of major changes in structure and

changes in attitudes forced by a not entirely sympathetic government have not improved the situation.

The purely practical financial difficulties of young people finding somewhere to live in a large, expensive city affect nurses and junior doctors alike. All these factors have contributed to low morale in the nursing profession. Young women are voting with their feet, and leaving, or not taking up nursing as a career.

There are about 157,000 qualified midwives (belonging to the Royal College of Midwives)—and only 31,000 are practicing. Vacancies for trained nursing staff run at between 20 and 25 per cent for London hospitals, with wards and accident-and-emergency departments closed as a consequence.

What does a nurse earn? A first-year student, minimum age 18, with five O-levels or above, earns £4,540 a year. The third-year student will receive £5,170, and on qualifying will become a staff nurse, at £7,300. After five years as a staff nurse, she will, by small annual increments, be earning £8,600 and this is the most she can earn, however long she

serves, and however much experience she gains.

The next step is to become either a tutor or a ward sister, which can take the nurse to a scale beginning at £9,000 and rising to £12,000 (after six years, at £500 a year). To reach an annual salary of £12,000 the nurse will have had three years training, three or four years as a staff nurse, and six years as a ward sister—a total of 12 years' experience, more or less.

To become a tutor requires an extra qualification, and has a salary range of £11,571 to £13,700. There is also the enrolled nurse—£6,250 up to £7,750—which is a grade requiring two years' training only, and is regarded as a lower grade, requiring no O-levels.

The Royal College of Nursing wants this grade to be phased out—the top salary of £7,750 is as far as anyone will ever go, which can find people of great experience bypassed by younger, but more qualified people. Conversion courses will be open for those wishing to take them to bridge the gap in training.

The NHS is the biggest employer in the country—the

biggest in Europe, some say, if you do not count the Red Army. Of every £100 the Government has to spend, £3 of it goes on nurses' pay. It is the largest profession employing women in the country, and at the moment there is a very big question mark hanging over the future of nursing, and, therefore, of the future of the NHS itself.

One of the big problems is that of the nurse who does not want to move into teaching or administration, but who wants to use her skills and experience as a nurse. There is the possibility of becoming a specialist nurse, training in cancer nursing, for example, or in community nursing.

How can you measure the pay of a nurse working in the community treating cancer patients at home and teaching others how to do the work? It requires a lot more training than that for a ward sister, yet the pay is the same.

If a nurse takes time to take specialist training in the care of cancer patients, and returns to the ward, her pay does not increase with her training—it remains the same as it was before. The salary scale is measured by time, not the

level of experience, expertise and training.

There is a clinical grading review which is looking at the whole picture of nurses' pay, and trying to put an element of flexibility into the scale.

If the situation is to be reversed, and young people are to be attracted (instead of repelled) by the prospect of a career as a nurse, a new structure of pay and career opportunities must be found, and soon.

PT

Dual centenary

When Miss Ruth Lydia Loader was born on St Valentine's Day, 1887, Queen Victoria was celebrating her Diamond Jubilee and the RNPFN was being founded. Miss Loader, who lives in Hove, not only shares her centenary with the fund, she is one of its oldest annuitants.

Victor West, the RNPFN's chief executive, says: "Miss Loader was one of the first pharmacists to join the fund. Though not the oldest of our members, she is the only pharmacist member to celebrate her 100th birthday in our centenary year."

She spent 28 years of her professional life as a pharmacist at the Midway Mission Hospital in east London, and on her retirement from there in 1947, bought an annuity which, 40 years on, still produces a regular cheque.

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BNA

A look at women at work

Christopher Maggs, a professional historian, is helping the RNPFN to celebrate its first 100 years.

He has written *A Century of Change: The Story of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses*, which is being published by the fund as a special presentation volume.

"My particular interest is the history of women at work, so nursing is obviously very important," said Dr Maggs, who is the RNPFN Fellow in the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, at Oxford.

Federated Pension Schemes congratulates The Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses on its centenary.

For one hundred years the RNPFN has worked to provide nurses and other health workers with a more secure future, a profitable home for their savings and life insurance. Since 1928, FPS has shared the aims of the RNPFN in a related sphere of activity.

Federated Pension Schemes is a non-profit making organisation which exists to administer pension schemes primarily for those in the health, welfare, charitable and education fields. More than 400 employers use our services to make provision for more than 8,000 caring professionals.

The close links with the RNPFN date from our foundation under our original name of the Federated Superannuation Scheme for Nurses. Over many years, our shared aims have led to the creation of a close professional working relationship.

We are proud of our links with the RNPFN and especially proud of the benefits which we have been able to extend, together, to members of the caring professions.

We look forward to maintaining our close association with the RNPFN during the coming changes in the pensions scene.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss the ways in which FPS can help in meeting your pension needs, please telephone David Braithwaite, General Manager, on 07373 57272.



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Serving the nursing profession

The Royal College of Nursing takes great pleasure in sending its congratulations and best wishes to the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses on this its hundredth birthday. The College salutes the pension fund's century of achievement for nurses and looks forward to maintaining its close links with the RNPFN during the next 100 years.

The Royal College of Nursing is the world's largest trade union and professional organisation for nurses, with over 260,000 members.

It promotes the highest standards of nursing care and is at the forefront in tackling the major issues affecting the profession today: fighting for crucial developments in nurse education, a realistic pay structure, more financial and manpower resources for the NHS, and creating a true health rather than an illness service in the United Kingdom.

For further information, please contact the RCN Press and Public Relations Department, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB.
Telephone 01-409 2585.



Motoring by Clifford Webb

Learning to tow without trepidation

With a 1,200 mile trouble-free tour of the Scottish Highlands under my belt, caravan towing no longer fills me with trepidation. Where once I shied away from these high-sided boxes on wheels buffeted by every passing truck, liable to snake dangerously and impossible to reverse I am now a convert.

But I took some sensible precautions before setting out. As I reported a couple of months ago I spent a weekend at one of the Caravan Club's towing courses (cost £31.50) learning the basics of hitching up, weight distribution, mechanical and electrical systems, forward and reverse steering, on site levelling up and simple legal requirements.

This all took place on private traffic-free roads, however. Putting schooling into practice on busy public roads would be another matter. To cut down the odds still further I arranged to borrow the 1987 Towcar of the Year combination, a 1.7 litre Renault 21 GTS and an Ace Diplomat caravan made by ABI of Beverley, North Humberside.

There was a last minute hitch when ABI realised that by the time I took delivery the 2-berth Ace Diplomat would be replaced by the Jubilee Diplomat, part of a 7-strong range being launched to mark ABI's 25 years as one of Britain's leading caravan manufacturers. In practice all the changes were internal and did not affect the overall dimensions or weight.

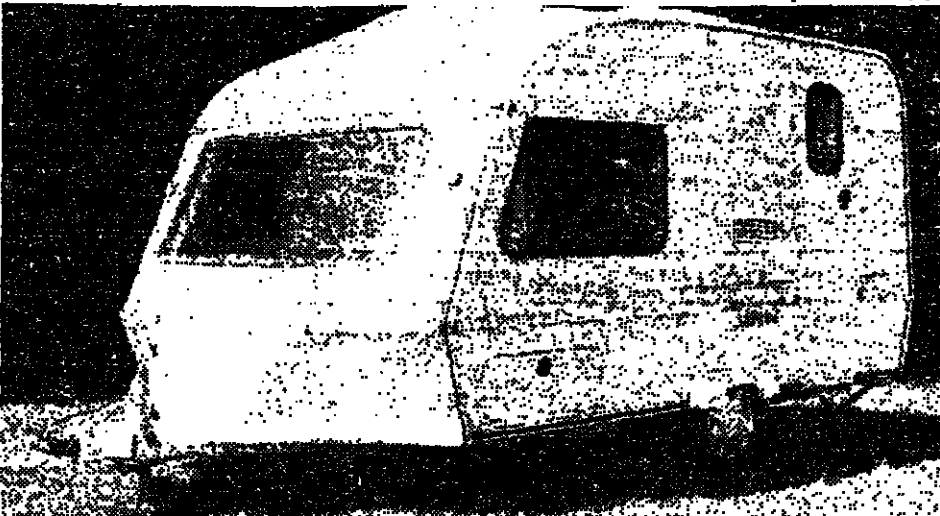
Loading the van correctly to keep it nicely balanced is crucial to safe, snake-free towing. A little careful thought to the stowage of heavy goods such as tinned food, spare wheel, bottled and tinned drinks, pays off. The aim is to get the van nose heavy rather than tail heavy but to keep the nose wheel right under 1 cwt. It is easy to check using bathroom scales. I put the caravan's spare wheel in the car boot and other 'heavies' in floor lockers above the van's axle.

A final check that the van's indicators and brake lights were working and off we went. My main concern was the foot or so of caravan jutting out each side of the car. I had visions of a street lamp or road sign tearing out the rear side while approaching traffic would certainly do the same on the offside.

On the course instructor's insistence I had fitted two large extended mirrors giving a clear view of the van overhang. They showed bags of clearance everywhere and my confidence grew. But I



The Renault 21 GTS chosen as Towcar of the Year and the ABI Jubilee Diplomat caravan



never relaxed throughout the whole of the first day up the M5 and M6 to our first stop near Carlisle.

The difficulty on motorways is overtaking trucks. The bow wave of displaced air rocks the caravan noticeably.

Vital statistics

Model: Renault 21 GTS
Price: £8,360
Engines: 1296cc 4-cylinder
Performance: 0-62 mph 10.7 seconds, maximum speed 116 mph
Official consumption: Urban 31.4 mpg, 56 mph 55.4 mpg and 75 mph 43.5 mpg
Length: 14.8 feet
Insurance: Group 6

Caravan

Model: ABI Jubilee Diplomat 2-berth
Price: £5,201
Dimensions: 11.4 feet internal, 16.2 feet overall, 7.2 feet wide
Weight: 12.6 cwt ex works with maximum payload of 3.15 cwt

You can reduce the effect by keeping into the near side and leaving more space between you and the passing trucks. But the Renault-Diplomat combination proved to be immensely stable - totally snake-free. By the second day I was taking the rocking

motion of passing trucks in my stride.

I stayed at or below 50 mph on the first day although the speed limit for caravans was recently raised to 60 mph. But as the days and miles passed and my confidence grew so did my speed.

The gear change was so light and positive that it was only a minor chore to nip down to fourth for bigger hills.

The Renault 21, a competitor for the Sierra, Cavalier, Montego sector, was launched in Britain just over a year ago and has already made a big impact on Renault's sales. There are 8 versions with a choice of two petrol engines of 1,721cc and 1,995cc and two diesels of 2,068cc with or without a turbo charger.

The 2-berth Jubilee Dip-

lomat impressed with the quality of its finish and attention to detail. Standard fittings include a refrigerator, water heater, shower, wash basin, toilet, interior heater, kitchen sink and three-burner hob and oven. The electric use either a 12 volt battery or 240 volt mains.

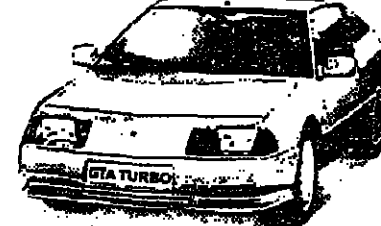
The large windows and roof lights were tinted and double glazed. Stowage space is at a premium in any caravan so my wife and I were particularly appreciative of the two external lockers for housing the water containers, gas bottles, mains cable, levelling blocks, anti-theft hitch lock, gum boots, cleaning materials etc.

We would, however, have appreciated more shelf space for clothing. The wardrobe and its single shelf was not sufficient for our needs. We had to keep woolies, shirts and socks in plastic bags stashed in the rather inaccessible bed lockers. But then as caravans go the 11½-ft Jubilee is rather small. For that reason we are considering buying a slightly longer van of about 13 feet. We hope, however, that the extra length will not be at the expense of the Jubilee's remarkable stability at speed.

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RACING: DERBY RUNNER-UP TO REMAIN IN TRAINING NEXT YEAR

Interval and Mamouna should make class tell in lower grade

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

A classic trial for fillies and the 1,000 Guineas itself appear to hold the key to the problems posed by two of the races at Newbury today.

The Masaka Stakes, which was run at Kempton in April, is the trial that I have in mind. It was won by Interval, who went on to finish third in the 1,000. In each case Mamouna was not far behind.

Now the conditions of the Hackwood Stakes appear to suit Interval (3.30) while the Maiden Stakes should be at the mercy of Mamouna, who worked really well in the Limekilns at Newmarket last week when I was there for the July meeting.

Since her excellent run behind Miesque and Milligram in the 1,000, Interval has disappointed at Royal Ascot where she finished only fifth in the Jersey Stakes. But as Ajdal showed last week, it often pays to give good horses an additional chance to redeem themselves and I certainly intend to do just that now as far as Interval is concerned.

Print, owned by Lord Porchester, the chairman of



Geoff Wragg trains Miss Bagatelle (4.0 Newbury)

Newbury racecourse, and the Cork and Orrery runner-up, Ongoing Situation, will ensure that life is not easy for my selection, but I still feel that this prize is Interval's for the taking if she is back to her best.

No matter how Mount Holyoke fares on her seasonal debut against Mamouna (2.0), the happy Manton partner, ship of Robert Sangster, Barry Hills and Cash Asmussen should still be on the mark again, this time with Pixie Erin in the Allied Dunbar Handicap.

Both of this beautifully-bred filly's races have been on the Berkshire track and each time

she has been more than equal to the occasion.

After she had led all the way to win a similar race last month by three lengths, carrying only a pound less than she has now, Hills told me that he thought that she was capable of even better.

The only thing that worries me in this instance is the fact that Scattered Showers and North Pacific are also front-runners, so she is unlikely to have everything her own way.

Twelve months ago the White Horse Handicap was won by Jackdaw. Today Reg Hollingshead's tough old stayer appears to have every bit as good a chance as he did that day, after running so well behind Dreams and Newsells Park at Newmarket nine days ago.

Peasehorn, a locally-owned and trained two-year-old, is sure to command a big following in the Chertis Hill Maiden Fillies' Stakes after showing a fair bit of promise on the course first time out when she finished fifth behind Magic of Life.

In this instance, though, I am content to go up with Miss Bagatelle, Geoff Wragg's filly, by Mummary's Pen, who has been showing the speed one associates with that breed in

all her preparatory work on Newmarket Heath.

At Thirk, I fancy Piffle's chance of beating The Gaucham in the Gordon W Richards Stakes.

The distance of this race is tailor-made to suit this sister to that good stayer El Conquistador. Piffle impressed me at Salisbury first time out when she stayed on so resolutely to win over a mile and a half.

At Newmarket's evening fixture, Rhazali, with Walter Swinburn in the saddle, is likely to be all the rage for the Glen International Handicap, having looked a bit unlikely not to win the Bunbury Cup over the same course and distance 10 days ago.

Finally, Semitone (8.50) is expected to become another winner for her sire, the young stallion Diebis, as Kris's younger brother seeks to establish his own good reputation from his base at the Mill Ridge Farm on the outskirts of Lexington in the heart of Kentucky.

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